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HISTORY

OF

POCOMOKE CITY,

FORMERLY

NEW TOWN,

From its Origin to the Present Time.

BY

REV. JAMES MURRAY.



BALTIMORE  
CURRY, CLAY & COMPANY,  
1883.

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To all my fellow-townsmen who feel an interest  
in Pocomoke City, is this History  
respectfully dedicated by the  
AUTHOR.

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# PREFACE.

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In writing a history of Pocomoke City, formerly New Town, I will say, the subject never presented itself to my mind until recently, and then I only contemplated a brief sketch of some of the early inhabitants together with their business life, the habits, customs and social bearing of society in "*ye olden times*." But as the subject loomed up before me into greater proportions, and as there never had been written a history of the place, only in scraps for newspaper publication, and as I have been repeatedly solicited to write such a history, I have submitted to undertake the arduous task.

The subjects comprised in this history will, therefore, be the geographical position or town limits of the place together with a description of its Houses, Streets, County Wharf and Public Square. The Mercantile, Shipping, Manufacturing, Steam Milling, Hotel and Livery Stable Business. The Practice of Medicine and Law. The Post-Office, Press, Social Life, Moral Outlook, Temperance, Schools, Churches and a brief sketch of the lives of its leading business and professional men.

In writing this history I have not aimed at literary display, if I had, the book itself would expose my weakness. But I have simply aimed at giving a statement of facts, and chief among my aspirations has been the rescuing from oblivion, the names and history of persons living in New Town in the days of yore, names precious and dear to many who are still living in Pocomoke City, together with Incidents of Social Life that will be of interest to read. The whole history covering a period of over two hundred years.

In giving a sketch of my own life, separately, I must say, in justice to myself, that the subject never once entered my mind until I had been repeatedly requested to do so, finally I yielded, hoping that my eventful life would be both a warning to the young not to pursue those paths of vice into which I had fallen, and an encouragement to all, that it is never too late to turn over a new leaf, never too late to do good. The fact of my joining the Virginia Conference, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, when I was in the fifty-sixth year of my age, undertaking a four years course of Conference studies, leaving a loving home and going among strangers for three successive years, in the valley of Virginia, and on the Mountains of West Virginia, and traveling in that Conference for six years, averaging the first three years, probably, fifteen hundred miles a year on horse-back, is an adventure of my life, at which I am truly amazed. Although I was in Orders when I entered the Conference, I was required to go through the usual course of studies, and I mention, in detail, the subjects upon which I was examined and the books to be read, simply to show the amount of labor I had to perform at my advanced age, and yet by application I succeeded.

J. M.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE AUTHOR'S LIFE.

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I was born in New Town, Worcester County, Maryland, on the 11th day of August, 1814. My father's name was Michael Murray. He was born in the town of Armagh, in Armagh County, in the North of Ireland. He received quite a liberal education in his native country, and was reared, by his parents in the Roman Catholic faith. My mother's name before she married my father, was Nancy Maddux. She was born and raised in Potatoo Neck, now Fair Mount, Somerset County, Maryland. She received such an education as the schools of her day were prepared to impart, and in her religious faith she was brought up a Methodist. My father came to America soon after the revolutionary war ended and engaged in merchandising, at Maddux's Island, Somerset County, Maryland. How long he continued there I cannot say, it was there, however, that he married my mother. In the course of time he moved to Rehoboth and continued merchandising some years, when, in 1803, he moved to New Town and continued in the mercantile and shipping trade in New Town for fifteen years. Of my mother were born seven sons and one daughter, all of whom lived to be grown. All of the boys learned trades except the youngest, and after their majority they all pursued other avocations, more or less. Of my six brothers and sister, I am happy to say, they all had good minds, and some of them shown with lustre, and of my sister, especially. I would say if the fair sex would not look at it with an eye of egotism, that she had an intellect above the ordinary class of her sex. They have all passed away except my youngest brother William who lives in Sumner County, Tennessee. I have said my father was a

Roman Catholic. He would hold family prayer on Sabbath morning, and would teach the children the prayers of that Church, such as the Lord's prayer, the Salutation and Invocation to the Holy Virgin Mary, the Apostles Creed, etc. But with these facts before me I must conclude that he was a broad minded, liberal man, for he contributed to the building of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in New Town, and had all his children baptized by Protestant Ministers. I have been at a loss to account for my early religious impressions, in view of the fact that my father was but a nominal christian, while my mother, during the lifetime of my father, did not belong to church. I can recollect distinctly, when but a child, that I was not afraid to die, and when the good spirit of the Lord so moved upon my little heart, as to soften it into tenderness and love.

I can also recollect, when in my early youth, that I was afraid to die, that I had a consciousness of sin and was afraid of God, and in view of such convictions, when I would retire to my bed at night, I have engaged in prayer, repeating the Lord's prayer and those my father taught me and concluding with: Now I lay me down to sleep, etc., until my little eyes would close in balmy sleep "nature's sweet restorer." I pursued this course under the impression that Satan would not come after a person while they were praying, for I was frequently afraid the Devil would get me before morning. The reader will recollect the Cat Story in relation to myself, which is told under the head of Social Life in New Town.

I have, if possible, a thousand times reviewed my father's course in raising his children. While in some instances he was very strict, yet in others he was remiss in his oversight of them. I suppose there have been but few families, especially in the days of my boyhood, but what there would be more or less fighting by the boys. Sometimes when my brothers and myself would be at work, we would get into a fight, and as I was the youngest, I would

generally get whipped. I recollect instances when I was not in fault, I would go to my father and tell him of it, instead of inquiring into the matter, he would give me another whipping and send me off to work again. I then had no appeal, and many a hard fight I have had with my dear brothers. I have said my father was very strict. If he promised me a whipping I was sure to get it. I recollect times when I would run from him to avoid punishment and he would say, in his broad Irish accent, "niver mind boy I will pay you." I felt that moment that my doom was sealed, and my feathers fell.

My father whipped his boys with the cowhide. It has been said of the Irish that they were the greatest people in the world for whipping the Devil out of their children. But it is a problem for solution, whether such whipping whips the Devil out of, or whips the Devil into, the children. I recollect very well my brothers and myself would get hold of the old cowhide, that had punished us so severely, and we would take it to the wood-pile and chop it into mince meat with the axe.

There was no Sabbath School, in New Town, in my little boyhood days, and the boys to a great extent, were suffered to roam about on the Sabbath day. On such occasions I would learn a great deal of wickedness. I learned to swear profusely, to play cards, and as early as eight years of age I learned to chew tobacco. I was the first one in my father's family to use tobacco, my father and mother never using it. Many a night, after I would go to sleep, my father would search my pockets for my tobacco and burn it; but it was all to no use, I conquered my father in my wicked course, and when I grew larger I chewed, with impunity, in his presence. This one instance of my boyhood life has caused me many a heartache since, and often times in contemplating the subject, I have been so mortified and humbled that the tears unbidden would steal from my eyes. At a very early age I learned to swim and finally I became quite an expert at it. I was like a duck in

the water for diving, and several times I have been nearly drowned by trying how far I could swim at the bottom of the river before I would come to the surface again. At other times I have been nearly drowned in playing with larger boys who would hold me under the water too long. It used to be quite common for the town boys to take their canoes, and go to the river swamps for shingle billets and bring them home to burn. Frequently, after loading my canoe with billets, I have taken the tow line in my mouth and swam along with the canoe as it would drift with the tide.

In eighteen hundred and twenty-seven, my father moved with his family to Baltimore. I was then thirteen years old. Another event occurred in my early history of which I have, ever since felt deeply ashamed, and humbled. After my father moved to Baltimore, for sometime, I had nothing to do, and consequently I would be down at the wharves and on board the Eastern Shore vessels to see those I was acquainted with, and would engage in boyish sports, such as standing on the waist or spars of the vessel and jumping to a rope and catching hold of it with one hand, and exhibiting my activity; during these visits I became acquainted with a man who had gone from this place. He followed the sea. He took a great liking to me for my activity and venturesome spirit, and persuaded me to go to sea. The pleasures of a seafaring life that loomed up before me, together with the idea of visiting foreign countries, were truly captivating. I determined on such a course at all hazards. I had not consulted my father or mother. I knew it would be of no use, that they would not give their consent and so I determined to act for myself. I had made some little engagements with a captain of a Dutch Ship bound to Bremen. I was but a boy and had no where to stay of nights and consequently would sneak home at night and run off in the morning. This state of things lasted several days. I have since heard my mother say that my father has walked the

floor wringing his hands and saying, in deep agony : "What shall I do with my boy James." Finally, he overtook me on Fell's Point, I was about to run from him, when he told me he wanted to talk with me, that he wanted to know where I was going, what ship I was going in, and how long I would be gone, and the wages I would get, &c. I had had premonitions that I was acting wickedly, but on this occasion I realized the heinousness of my crime. I felt as though the ground ought to open and swallow me up. I think the good Spirit of the Lord was showing me how wicked I was. I shall never be able fully to explain my feelings on that occasion. I was completely conquered. I went home and purposed to be a better boy.

There was another event, during my first years residence in the City of Baltimore, which has been, ever since, a pleasurable thought to me. I attended the first Sabbath School that I was ever in, that year. It was at a little frame church called Frog-Eye, in South Baltimore. The Superintendent talked so sweetly about Jesus that my little boyish heart was completely captivated. I was all humility. I went home. It was on Sabbath afternoon, and at the supper table. I could not help weeping. I have often thought since, that if I had had any one to explain to me the nature of Christianity, its blessedness and experience, that then I would have become a Christian. In my fourteenth year, I was thought to be rather young to go to a trade, consequently I obtained work in a brick yard, with a man by the name of George Cline. This man was so illnatured, crabbed and peevish that I hated him. I recollect one day I was on the kiln tossing bricks to him, on the ground, and as he was not looking the bricks struck him on the foot. It was a terrible blow, he took up a half brick and said : "I have a great mind to knock you off that kiln." I had no faith in him, and was ready, if he raised his hand to throw, to jump off the kiln on the other side. I disliked this man so much, on account of his disposition and the small pay I received,

which was one dollar a week and I board myself, that I framed a lie, and told my father, that he did not want me any longer. I then went to work with another man, in an adjoining yard, by the name of John Reese. This man gave me kind words, treated me like a father, and gave me a dollar and a half a week. The one I love to think of, the other I have long since forgiven.

In eighteen hundred and twenty-nine, I commenced learning the shoe making trade with my brother. I was then in my fifteenth year. I was very apt, and soon learned to make a boot. During the next year, however, he concluded to leave the City, and he made an engagement with Captain John T. Taylor, of Snow Hill, Worcester County, Maryland, to act as foreman in his shoe and boot factory, in that place. This event took place in eighteen hundred and thirty, and to me it was an epoch in my history that I shall never forget. I was then turned out on the world to shift for myself, at the age of sixteen, without counsellor or friend to take me by the hand and direct me in the way I should go. It is true my father and mother were then living, but they were living in New Town and I was in the City of Baltimore. I have often thought upon this part of my early history as being marked by the special providence of my great Heavenly Father who watches over the present and future doings of those that are left destitute. I procured board at the house of a kind humane man, for one dollar and twenty-five cents a week. I could make two dollars and fifty cents a week at my trade, consequently I could have, after paying my board, one dollar and twenty-five cents to buy my clothes, shoe findings, and to pay the laundress, and the balance I could have for spending money. This state of things continued until the latter part of the year when my father moved back to the City, and I was again with the family. In the latter part of eighteen hundred and thirty-one, my father died and was buried in a Roman Catholic Cemetery, in the western part of the city of Baltimore. Early in eighteen hundred and thirty-two, my mother, with her three



youngest children moved back again to New Town, and I was left in the city. I was then in the eighteenth year of my age. I was ambitious to excel at my trade, and in order to be a proficient, I went under instructions with one of the best workmen in the city, and boarded with him. I soon became master of my own trade and could hold a seat of stitched boots in any of the best shops in the City. But this prosperity at my trade, was attended with a series of wickedness that ought to be truly alarming. My association was entirely of a vicious character. In those large shoe-maker boarding houses there would be sometimes as high as fifteen or twenty men upon their benches, strewed around the room, In such a company there must be entertainment, and scarcely, without an exception it would be of a vicious character. The bottle of liquor would be in the middle of the floor; the singing those songs and telling yarns which had an immoral tendency. Then theatre going, ten-pin alleys visited, gambling saloons tarried at, frequently, till after midnight. I have, since, often wondered at the alarming progress I was making, in fixing my habits that, without some interposition, would end in my utter ruin. In eighteen hundred and thirty-three, my brother, who had established himself in business in Snow Hill, wrote to me to come and work for him. This was a providential door opened to me, for which I have, ever since, had great cause to be thankful. I was, by accepting this invitation, lifted out of my old associations, and placed in an entirely new element of society. I held on, however, to my old habits of swearing, gambling and tobacco chewing. In the winter of 1843 and 1844, there was a great revival of religion, in the Methodist Episcopal Church, in Snow Hill. I was providentially brought under its gracious influence. Before this, however, I would argue Roman Catholicism with the Methodists, yet I believed they were under some blessed influence to which I was a stranger. This conviction was the result of my observation of their godly walk, their chaste conversation, and their acclamations

of joy in their religious meetings. The leading men engaged in conducting that revival were Mathew Sorin and Shepherd Draine. These were the ministers on the circuit. Stephen Townsend, afterwards Doctor Townsend, of the Philadelphia Conference; Ephraim Mathews, father of I. T. Matthews, Esq., who is the present clerk of the county; George Hudson, who was for many years clerk in the office of the Register of Wills for Worcester County; and Levi Nelson, a boot and shoe maker. These men commanded my highest respect. I could not gainsay their christianity in any particular. I often wondered at their kind and gentle bearing towards me. Notwithstanding, I attended their meetings regularly, yet I would avoid those men by taking a seat in the rear of the congregation. They would, however, find me out, and by their kindly, gentle course would persuade me to go up and mingle in the congregation. With unabated love I have often thought of those men, when they would come to me sometimes, lay their hands upon my head, though not a word would be spoken, and weep over me. This was more than I could bear. I thought if I did not yield to such loving entreaties as this, I ought to go to Hell. I determined to make an unconditional surrender of myself to God. I was ignorant of the ways of God and the Gospel plan of Salvation. I submitted to be taught like a child. I bowed at the altar. I deplored and confessed my sins, the more I prayed, and contemplated my condition, the more I saw myself a lost sinner, my feelings became intolerable. I sought the Lord day and night without intermission except when I was asleep. This was a long, dark, dark night of experience to me, but finally in fixing my eyes upon the day star from on high the day-light of pardon, peace and joy broke into my soul. Before this I was decidedly opposed to making any ado about religion. I said if I embraced it I would let the people see how decently and in order I could get it. But oh! how foolish I was. I was as ignorant as a beast before the Lord. When I received the witness of pardon and my

acceptance with the Lord, I was lost in praise, and thought of nothing but Jesus and his love to me, and shouted aloud before a large congregation the veritable experience of salvation by faith in Jesus Christ. Though this experience was realized nearly fifty years ago, yet to this day it is unspeakable, it was Christ in me the hope of glory. I was truly convinced that I was as thoroughly changed in my spiritual nature as that I had a being, and the savor of the good, I then received, I have to this day. A new life then opened up to me. I broke off my old habits at a stroke, excepting tobacco chewing, which I did not then realize to be inconsistent with a profession of Christianity. I can say, since that day I have studiously avoided all those places in which I previously took delight, places where God was not honored.

During eighteen hundred and thirty-four I returned to Baltimore and worked at my trade. An event occurred that year which liked to have cost me my life. There was a mob raised upon the breaking of the old Maryland Bank. The spite of the mob was directed to the officers of the Bank, such as Reverdy Johnson, John Glenn and others. It commenced operations on Saturday night. I had finished my day's work and had eaten my supper and walked down town. I discovered their aim was at Reverdy Johnson's house, on Monument Square. A guard was already posted across Calvert street, on the North side of Baltimore street. As I came along I was requested to volunteer. I did so, and about twelve o'clock, while fighting the mob, I was struck in the forehead with a stone which cut through my hat and cut my head about an inch long. I was knocked down as quick as if I had been shot. My wound was examined and pronounced not dangerous, and I was placed on the retired list. No changes occurred in my life, but such as are of common occurrence until eighteen hundred and thirty-six. In the first of January of that year, I established myself in the boot and shoe business, in New Town. I was in the twenty-second year of my age. Up to this date my

education was of the most superficial character. With the exception of a few weeks, I had not gone to school since I was thirteen years old. I could, however, at that date read, write and cipher some. I understood the multiplication table up to the twelfth line, the four fundamental rules in arithmetic, was somewhat acquainted with the single and double rule of Three, and Practice, and was a tolerably good speller. This was the ultimatum of my schooling until I was twenty-two years of age. During that year, by some casualty, Kirkham's grammar fell into my hands. It was a dead science to me. I took the book, however, to a friend and desired him to give me some insight of it, he did so, and I began to understand it, and I was so ambitious to improve my education that I went to school two months, to a good scholar. I confined my studies chiefly to English grammar and geography, and without any praise to myself, I soon stood at the head of the grammar class. This was the result of two considerations: first, I had a longing desire for knowledge, and secondly I was at a more mature age to receive instructions than the younger scholars. After this I would carry my book in my pocket as I would walk the street, or have it on the bench while I would be at work, and would parse everything that came under my observation.

On the 11th day of January, 1838, I was married to Mrs. Mary Atkinson, widow of Thomas D. Atkinson, deceased. Her maiden name was Long, she was the daughter of Josiah and Sally Long. In this instance I assumed a responsibility for which I was scarcely adequate. I was poor, and to support a large family from the beginning with no other means but my trade was no small undertaking. Yet I succeeded, by good management to provide, in some little degree, things convenient. In the course of a few years my health became so impaired by sedentary life, that I was induced to make a change. I commenced farming in a small way until 1849. Prior to the above date I had served two terms as justice of the peace, and when the Magistrates Court was established I was

appointed chief judge of this district, but refused to accept the appointment. During the time of which I am writing I was serving the Church as class leader, recording steward and local preacher. Up to 1849 all my children were born, and my second son James Henry was dead. At the above date I leased a farm, four and a half miles in the country; the farm was poor and I was told that I would starve on it, but by careful management, after living on it four years, and living well too, I had gained four hundred dollars. While on the farm I would ride to town of a night, after the day's work would be over, lead class and return home. During my sojourn on the farm, an event occurred, which has ever since been a source of congratulation. It was my abandonment of the use of tobacco. This may seem to some persons a very small matter, but to me it was of vast moment. I had had, for many years, misgivings with regard to the propriety of its use. I had sought to justify myself by all possible considerations, chief among them was the example of christian men and christian ministers, some of the highest dignitaries of the Church in the habitual use of tobacco. I dared not unchristianize them, some of them were, in other respects way marks to the better land, and if they can use it why not I? This was a powerful argument for me to continue its use. Another consideration in favor of its continuance, was the fact that I commenced at such an early day, when I embraced christianity and knew I was accepted of my gracious Heavenly Father, I was still using it. But notwithstanding all these considerations, I still had my misgivings when I read the precious word of truth and considered that cleanliness was an attribute of godliness. I reasoned, also, that in many instances, if not all, tobacco was unhealthy in its use, and that our money was a precious talent to be used in a proper way, and not to be used in feeding a debased and an unnatural appetite. I had made, probably, a hundred attempts to quit its use, and as many times failed. But in this last effort I succeeded, and one great induce-

ment urging me on was the bad example I was setting my children, for how could I tell them not to use it when I was using it myself? Another event took place while I was on the farm, which has been the greatest pleasure to me. It was a revival of religion, at Swansgut Methodist Episcopal Church, in which about fifty persons professed religion, and there was no other instrumentality employed in it but the Rev. John Hersey, of precious memory, and the writer. In 1852, I served as one of the assessors of Worcester County. At the close of 1853, I moved back to New Town, and in 1854, I embarked in the steam saw mill business, but had not more than got the mill in running order before I discovered that I had made a mistake, and I determined to sell out as soon as an opportunity presented itself. It was not long before I had an offer for my interest in the mill, and I sold out with a loss of about three hundred dollars. Some thought I was fickle in this instance, but I had made up my mind to get out of the mill, and the sequel showed the wisdom of the act. I had invested but a few hundred dollars which I had been gathering together for between fifteen and twenty years by hard work, and had I continued in the mill I should have lost all. In reviewing the history of this incident, there is cause for praise to my Heavenly Father, and admiration of this special providence over me. At the close of 1856, I removed to Somerset County, on a farm which I had purchased of Hon. Isaac D. Jones. I now began to think that I should be settled in life. I had moved about so much that I desired that this should be the last time until I would go to my long home. But I had not been on the farm two years before circumstances were brought to bear upon me, which caused a change. I owed one-third of the purchase money on the farm, but I had that all secured, and could have had such time as would be convenient for me to pay it in. But I was in debt to the merchant, mechanic, school teacher, &c. I had made a good crop of corn and oats, and would be amply able to pay all such bills if I could hold on to my produce

until such seasons of the year in which it would bring the best price. As soon as my crops were made, the payment of those bills was called for, and, generally speaking at that season, the price of grain is the lowest. It was in vain to expostulate, and the officer was paying me visits. I began to see more clearly than ever before, that what I had was not mine while I was in debt, but that I was simply an agent in the hands of my creditors, to obey their wishes at what time and whenever they said pay. I had always been in debt, from the date of my marriage up to the time of which I am writing, and I thought I could see clearly, if possible, a thousand ways in which I had suffered by the credit system. I thought it was my only hope of success to abandon the credit system, to get out of this dirty pool. I was resolved upon it if it broke me. I had an offer for my farm at an advanced price and I sold it, sold out my stock and grain, paid all I owed, turned over a new leaf and seemingly commenced life square for the first time. After this I moved back to New Town, and I soon discovered the benefit of such a change. When I would go into a store to buy anything, the merchant knew that he was going to get the money, and without any word from me the price of the article would be put down at the lowest figures. I now began to get along better than ever before. I need buy, now, *only* such things as I needed and if I could not get them at one place, I could go to another. Whereas under the credit system, I would be compelled to deal at certain places, and pay whatever prices they charged, and if that store at which I was dealing did not have the article I wanted, it was frequently the case that something else would, though not answering so well, have to be taken in lieu and probably at a greater price. In 1861, I was appointed post-master, under the administration of Abraham Lincoln, and served in that capacity until 1866 when I was removed under the administration of Andrew Johnson. In 1867, I was ordained a Deacon by the imposition of the hands of Bishop Simpson, at the Philadelphia Con-

ference, held in West Chester, Pennsylvania, after passing an examination before a committee appointed by the Conference for that purpose. In this same year I commenced merchandising in New Town, in consequence of the failure of my health, caused by sedentary life. This business was a necessity to me, I knew not what else to fall upon to support my family, and I entered into it with caution and trepidation. For I had often heard the remark that they that own a farm and sell it to go to merchandising would never own another. I bought my goods for cash and was prepared to sell as low as the lowest. I would not go into any ring or form any combination, but sold goods on my own convictions, and as a general thing sold for cash and would not let a customer go out of the store with his money if it was possible to reach him in the price of the article and I generally got his money and he got the goods. During the first two years, the price of goods was steadily on the rise, and dry goods went up one hundred per cent. in six months after I made my first purchase, so that I could wholesale to some of the merchants at a lower price than they could buy for in the city, and still make a heavy profit. During this period I was so fearful that I would become a bankrupt that I would invoice every few months, and the result would show that I was whole footed, and so I became more careless. At the end of two years goods had reached their highest point in price, and the crisis came, and the after part of my mercantile life was like Pharaoh's dream, it ate up pretty much all that I had made in the years preceding, but after all, when I sold out, I came out as good as when I went into the business. In 1865, I was employed by the Rev. Solomon Cooper, Presiding Elder of the District, to serve as Junior Preacher, on Church Creek Circuit, in Dorchester County. This may be considered the beginning of my life as a traveling Preacher, although I had preached at different places before and, many times at all the appointments on the circuit where I live, and had served the Church in every capacity, as Class-Leader, Exhorter, Trustee, Recording Steward and Local Preacher.



From the time of my marriage I have always kept an open house for the Ministers of the Gospel, and there was nothing too good to provide, nor any labor too great to perform to make those happy who rested under my roof. When I went on Church Creek Circuit, there was a camp-meeting going on at Old Ebenezer. I arrived on the ground on Sabbath morning. It was soon known that the young preacher had come to the Circuit. There was a vast congregation on the ground and all eyes were on me. In the afternoon I was put up to preach. This was a great trial to me, for I knew that all that I would say would be criticised. However I did the best I could and after that the time went on pleasantly. In August, I went into protracted meetings and never came out of them till the close of conference year, which was the next March. I formed many very pleasant associations while on the Circuit, and was treated with high respect. This did not puff me up with pride, for I knew for whose sake this respect was given, but it made me feel the greater responsibility resting upon me to conduct myself as one that needeth not to be ashamed, "rightly dividing the Word of Truth." While on this Circuit I had no home of my own, my family still living in New Town, and, as a necessity, I was thrown upon the hospitality of the families on the Circuit. While visiting around I had ample opportunity of discovering the habits of the people, and to my regret I found one habit into which nearly all the people had fallen, it was the use of tobacco. In some families all the children as well as the parents used it excessively. I used what influence I could to dissuade them from it, but it was hard work stemming the tide. On one occasion, while in company with the Preacher in Charge, and also a Local Preacher, who both used the weed, I got into an argument with them upon the use of tobacco, and was progressing in it very well, and as I thought to a successful issue, when they asked me if I did not sell it. I told them yes. They burst out into a great laugh. That ended the argument, but in my complete discomfiture, I saw, as I

never saw before, the futility of my arguments while I sold tobacco. I told them that if my selling it closed my mouth upon the subject, I would sell it no more. When I came home to visit my family, I told my son, who was attending to the store, that we would clear it of tobacco. We did so, and never sold it any more. In 1867, I was again employed, this time, by the Rev. Vaughn Smith, who was Presiding Elder, to serve as Assistant Preacher on Princess Ann Circuit. The Rev. John M. Purner was Preacher in Charge. During the year, by incessant labor, which brought on protracted illness, Mr. Purner succumbed to the inevitable, and passed away in holy triumph. Rev. J. T. Vanburkalow succeeded him for the remainder of the year, with whom I labored in harmony until Conference. In reviewing my work on this Circuit, during the year, I will say, although the times were perilous, yet I made many friends, both in and out of church, and I trust I did some good. At the last Quarterly Conference for the year, I was recommended to the Philadelphia Annual Conference for Elders Orders, and after passing an examination before a committee who reported favorable in my case, together with the report of the Presiding Elder upon my character and usefulness, I was unanimously elected to the office, and was ordained by Bishop Janes, assisted by the Elders present, on the 15th day of March, in the year of Our Lord, one thousand, eight hundred and sixty-eight, in the City of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. During the preceding year I sold out my store house and stock of goods, and I was now desirous to devote my life, exclusively, to the office, and work of the Ministry. In my earlier life I had considered the support of my family and education of my children to be a great achievement. This I had done without any help save my own native will and energy, and now after accomplishing this most responsible duty, I had enough left to take care of my wife in a small way, and was ready to enter any open door of usefulness in the cause of the Redeemer. In reading the Minutes of the Virginia Annual

Conference, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, I discovered that there was a great want of Ministerial help. I corresponded with the Rev. Elisha P. Phelps, who was the leading spirit in the Conference and a Presiding Elder, at that time, of Rockingham District, in regard to joining the Conference. I stated my age, that I was in Orders, and that I could do Circuit Work. He encouraged me to make application. The Conference met the following year, 1870, March the 1st, in the City of Richmond. I went to that Conference, and did not know a living man in it, but Bishop Janes, who was presiding. After my name was handed in, I was put under examination, by a committee, upon the following course of study, which is laid down in the discipline of the Church, for those who are to be admitted on trial, namely: Common English, Ancient History, Scripture History, History of the United States, History of Methodism, Rhetoric, Logic, and Discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The books to be read, preparatory to, and in connection with this examination, were: Wakefield's Theology, Watson's Life of Wesley, Whitney's Hand Book of Bible Geography, Foster's Christian Purity, and Student's Gibbon. I had, however, received from the Quarterly Conference, of New Town Circuit, preparatory to going to the Virginia Conference, a recommendation to that Conference as a suitable person to enter the Traveling Connection, and also an individual letter from the Presiding Elder, the Rev. Vaughn Smith, which was of great benefit to me as a stranger. After the committee reported upon my examination, I was received on trial and my name put in the basket for an appointment, and when the appointments were read out my name was put down for Middle Brook Circuit. After this the Presiding Elder came to me and said he had done the best he could for me, and he did not know how much they would give me, probably not much, but if I pleased them the Lord knew how much they would give for my support. Middle Brook is a small village, ten miles above Staunton, in the great valley of Virginia,

between the North and South Mountains. The valley at this place is about twenty miles wide. I had eight appointments. The extremes were from the North Mountain to the top of the South Mountain, and in climbing the South Mountain, the distance from base to summit is six miles. After receiving my appointment from the Conference I took the cars for Staunton, and thence, by stage, to Middle Brook. The Circuit was out to the commons. There had been no regular Preacher sent to that Circuit, by the Conference, for a year. I was perplexed at this state of things, however, after consultation with my friends, my plans were formed as above stated. After preaching at Middle Brook, I started for Sherando, a small village at the foot of South Mountain, a distance of twenty miles. It was in March, and there was snow on the ground, in a thawing condition, and this, together with the sticky, red clay, made it very bad traveling on foot, and the roads in some places, for some distance, would be covered with water, so that I would have to go off the road in the fields to find better walking. Two incidents on this, my first round, I will here record: The first, was one which I often call up in memory with the greatest pleasure. It was on this wise: After traveling the road for about six miles, the noon of day came on. I knew no one on the road nor where to stop to get anything to eat. I knew that I must eat something to enable me to perform my journey. It did not, however, take me long to demonstrate the old adage, "wherever there is a will there is a way." I called up to a well-to-do farmer's house, which stood close on the road. I asked them if they could accommodate a stranger with dinner. They eyed me, and then said yes, invited me in, and after taking off my overcoat and overshoes, I sat down in conversation with the lady of the house, who was, as is often the case, the chief speaker. I soon discovered that she was a christian and feared God. The conversation took a religious turn and soon the silent tear was seen standing in the eye as we conversed on the deep things of God. During my call it

was found out what my mission was and they treated me with the same spirit of courtesy that the Angels received from Abraham. After dinner, which was of the first-class, for they were independent, I got ready to start, and called for my bill, they informed me there was no charge, save that I call and see them again. I informed them upon those terms I would do so. They filled my pockets with apples, and ordered two horses to be saddled and bridled, and requested their oldest son, at home, who was a young man grown, to take me on my way some distance; this he did for about six miles. This call was my introduction to one of the sweetest homes that I had on that Circuit. I was always welcome, and they were able to take care of me and my horse without any inconvenience, and my gratitude was enhanced from the consideration that they were not Methodists, but Lutherans. Their names were Baker. I have lost their first name. They lived near Greenville, on the road from Middle Brook to Sherando. The name Baker, to me yet, has a pleasant sound in view of those associations. As I think of them, I think of the memorable words of the Saviour. "I was an hungered and ye gave me meat. I was a stranger and ye took me in." "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." If this little book should ever fall into the hands of that dear family, they will see, by this narrative, that the kindness they bestowed upon me, for the want of greatful remembrance, has not been lost.

The second incident, which I proposed to mention, took place about six o'clock that same evening. During the day I had traveled sixteen miles, I was, at that late hour, four miles from Sherando, darkness was gathering around me, I had blistered my feet walking, worn and weary I called up to a house on the road, for I knew not where to go. As to pursuing my journey to Sherando that was perilous, as I did not know the way only by inquiry, and if I could have gotten there before bedtime, I knew

not where to call. The man upon whom I called had a terrible dog, though I did not know it. When I opened the gate he came bolting at me, so I let on to him that I did not mind him. The fact was my necessities compelled me to go to the house. The dog seeing I did not mind him ran off toward the house and then rallied and came again, this time more furiously, but I kept my go for the house, and he backed down again, and when I entered the porch and knocked at the door, the little dog in the house commenced barking, that set the big dog on, and I had no time for ceremonies, but opened the door and rushed in. I apologized for my abrupt entrance. The man told me that I had run a great risk, for that dog was one of the most dangerous. I asked if I could get accommodations for the night, he told me if I could put up with such as he could give I could stay. I told him I had nowhere to stop, and sooner than be turned out I would sleep on the floor. They entertained me, and that right comfortably, and would not have any pay for it. As I have already stated, I had eight appointments and could only preach once a month at each place by preaching twice every Sabbath day. During the year we had a great revival at Middle Brook, some forty persons professed religion and joined the Church.

I had my Conference Course of studies to attend to, and no studio, as some have, with every other convenience necessary for success, but my studio was the country road; with Watson's Institutes in my hand I would sit down on a log of wood, by the roadside, and there in solitude, I would pore over my lesson with none to disturb my meditations save the sweet songs of the birds, as they would cheer me in breaking the monotony of the hour.

When I would reach the place of destination, I would, after the usual greetings, enter a private room, and there with my books occupy the time I had to devote to reading and study. I made it a point to visit all families that I could have access to, and I have had it said to me that they had not seen it on this wise before.

At the Third Quarterly Meeting, the Presiding Elder asked me if I wanted to go back, I told him I did not, yet I was willing to go wherever the Bishop sent me, but I thought I ought to be taken care of. He said that should be done. The year closed. Conference came on, and I was before the Committee, of the first year, in Alexandria, Va. The course of Study was: Watson's Institutes, Plain Account of Christian Perfection, Church History, Homiletics, Psychology and Written Sermon. The books to be read were: Wesley's Sermons, Steven's History of Methodism, and Townsend's Sword and Garment. My examination was complimented before the class by the Chairman of the Committee. When the appointments were read out my name was declared for Monroe Circuit, in Monroe and Greenbrier Counties, West Va. This move threw me away from my family about five hundred miles. The terminus of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad then was at White Sulphur Springs. I went to the Circuit and was received cordially. This Circuit to me was, in comparison to the one I left, like going out of a dry and barren land, into the land of Goshen. The brethren and friends wanted me to take my family with me. Some would furnish me with a few cooking utensils, some a few chairs, others, again, with a table, and so on, and so on.

My wife was born and raised, and lived in New Town, and adjacent thereto, all her life, and knew nothing of the trials of a mountain life, and to take her into such a country, and leave her to herself, on some lonely road, probably, for a week or more at a time, exposed, was more than I could do, consequently, I was the second year to myself. We had good times on the Circuit, several revivals and additions to the Church. During the year I had a spell of sickness, which made it necessary for me to be changed the next year. The Doctor, James Wait, at Rocky Point, attended me, he informed the Elder that the climate of the mountains was too rigorous for me. I, however, knew nothing of it. The Pre-

siding Elder asked me one day if I wanted to come back, and stated, at the same time, that the Doctor said I must not stay in the mountains. I told him I was fully aware of the fact, and had already made up my mind not to do so. One incident while I was on this Circuit I wish to relate: At a certain appointment I administered the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. In inviting the Communicants to come forward, I discovered a hesitancy to do so, I urged the duty, but very few came to the Communion. After services were over, and while at the dinner table of one of the Stewards, the subject came up and the lady of the house said: "Brother Murray, perhaps you do not know the reason why there was such a staying away from the Sacrament this morning, and I will tell you: it is because we have never been baptized." I was amazed at this news. Here was one of the leading officers of the Church and not baptized. I reasoned with them, showed the duty, and such a scene took place, during the week, as the result of that interview, as I have never witnessed before nor since. The man and his wife, with two or three of his children were professors of religion. Preparations were made for their baptism. The father and mother, with the children, who professed religion, I requested to kneel side by side on the floor. The children for Infant Baptism, I requested to stand by the side of the other children, and I baptized the parents and older children first, after this the younger ones, eight persons in all. I learned that the condition of this family represented that of many others, and I went through the neighborhood, baptizing professors of religion, and children, until I left none unattended to that I knew of.

On this Circuit I had many friends. There were several revivals and many additions to the Church. In a certain neighborhood, I found a goodly number of Christian people who had been cut off from their former religious associations by the desolations of the war. These I gathered together and formed into a class. The year was closing up in peace and prosperity, and the



approaching Conference, which was to be held at Leesburg, was drawing nigh. In February, I started for the seat of Conference, which was to come off the 1st of March. I rode to White Sulphur Springs with my valise in front of me ; there I expressed it, and started for Conference on horseback. I rode seven consecutive days, from early morn till night, fording rivers, crossing mountains covered with ice and snow, in a drizzling rain that would freeze as it would fall, so that my clothes would be frozen stiff on me. The distance I rode was about three hundred miles, and in looking back upon that perilous journey, I have admired and wondered at that providence which was exercised over me. In crossing the mountains, they would be covered with snow but I found that underneath the snow was a very slippery sheet of ice. My horse was rough-shod, but in spite of that he would slip on the ice. I would get down and walk, at what I conceived to be the most dangerous places. There were no signs of traveling on the road, and if my horse had fallen and crippled me I would have died upon the mountain, all alone. Conference came on and I went before the Committee, of the second year, for examination. The subjects to be examined upon were : Statement and Scripture Proofs of Bible Doctrine, Watson's Theological Institutes, (part second,) Baptism, Moral Science and Written Sermon. The books to be read were : Whedon on the Will, Emory's Defence of our Fathers, Porter's Compendium of Methodism, Gaussen's Origin and Inspiration of the Bible, Rawlinson's Historical Evidences, Shedd's, Homiletic's and Pastoral Theology.

After this examination my case was reported on by the Committee and Elder both, and I was admitted into full connection. When the appointments were read out my name was called for Herndon Circuit, in Fairfax County, Va. This was a two week's Circuit, on the Washington and Ohio Railroad, about eighteen miles from the City of Washington. Some of the appointments were only about nine miles from Washington. On

this Circuit I was brought in contact with city life, for nearly, if not all, the people did business in the city, and many who held offices under the Government lived within the bounds of the Circuit. On this Circuit, I spent one of the most pleasant years of my life in the Ministry. During my stay on this Circuit, which was only one year, we built a Church, which cost, probably, three thousand dollars and had it to worship in before the year closed. Some incidents occurred while on this Circuit which may be of interest to relate. The first is in relation to building the Church on ground for which there was no deed given. Some of the most influential advised to build without getting a deed as the ground had long ago been given verbally. It seemed that there had been two or three efforts to build in years past, and the ground had been given by a man who then lived at Herndon, but had moved away, and at this time of which we are speaking lived in New York State. I told the friends not to do such a reckless thing, but first secure the deed and then go ahead. Negotiations were had with the party owning the ground. The result was that notwithstanding he had given the ground while he lived at Herndon, yet now as he had disconnected himself with the place, and moved back to his native State, he should charge \$50 for it. Here we were at a standstill. Where to get the fifty dollars was a subject of reflection. In a few days, however, a lady told me to have the deed prepared, which was done by a lawyer, and she would furnish the fifty dollars, all of which was done. The deed was executed, delivered, and recorded in the Clerk's Office, of Fairfax County, Virginia.

We were now fairly on our feet, and I told the people that we would then build the Church, which was built as above stated. During the process of building, I went to Alexandria, Washington and Georgetown on a begging expedition. Before I commenced, however, I went to the Preachers' Meeting in Washington, made my cause known to them, and requested an introduction

to their people which was cordially granted by giving me a strong letter. I canvassed the city by Churches, and had a view of their internal workings in the way of expenses, how heavily they taxed themselves to support the Gospel, such as I never had before. One brother, who was door-keeper in the Treasury Department, or if not door-keeper had his stand by the door, to direct inquiries to any room in the building, told me his salary was one thousand dollars a year, and that brother subscribed one thousand dollars to build a Church, payable in annual instalments of one hundred dollars each till the whole was paid. Another incident may serve to show what appeals I had to make to be successful. I called on a distinguished lawyer, at the Court House, for a subscription; he encouraged me to expect something by telling me to call at his house at four o'clock. I did so. It was a fine three-story house, on a popular street, and, as the reader may suppose, was well furnished. He was at dinner. I was invited in, and directed to take a seat in his study, a room, the bookcases of which were filled with costly volumes appertaining to the law. After he had dined, he entered the office and asked what he could do for me. The reader may think that I used a little sagacity in taking him upon a full meal, for at such times persons are generally in a good humor. I told him I had called in compliance with his direction, and desired a donation to my Church. He commenced making excuses by telling how much he had to pay to the Church, &c. I soon saw that I must make a mighty effort to reach him. I commenced by saying: "Mr. So-and-so, when I look at your standing as a lawyer, your fine building, your splendid furniture, your beautiful library, filled with costly books, I must conclude that you are a man of wealth. Suppose now I were to tell you something of myself. I have a sick family, on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, which I have to support, of a son, upon whom rested the fond hopes of his parents for future comfort, now passing away with consumption, and his mother nursing

him as only a mother can. Suppose I tell you what I have had to go through in Virginia. In traveling some Circuits, I have walked twenty miles a day without anything to eat and did not rightly know where I would lodge at night. To accomplish my Conference studies, I had no such conveniences as you have here, but have had to take my books in hand, or if riding, take them in my saddlebags, and in walking sit down by the road side, and there read, think and pray. Now after all this, I am here without any charge for these services, and get from the Circuit, for the support of my family a mere subsistence." This rehearsal was too much for him. He said he had never gone through anything like that. He then asked me how much I thought he ought to give me. I told him, I thought he ought to give me five or ten dollars. In a moment he drew his pocket book and handed me five dollars. Another incident in connection with this begging expedition, which I liked to have forgotten, took place in the Preacher's Meeting, at Washington. After I had stated my cause, and after resolution passed, and letter given the Rev. R. W. Black, who I perceive by the Minutes of the Baltimore Conference is Presiding Elder of East Baltimore District, but at the time of which I am writing was stationed at Wesley Chapel, in Washington, stepped forward and said: Brother Murray, I have a little oil in the cruse and some meal in the barrel yet, and here is something for your cause." With this he handed me ten dollars. I have often thought of that dear brother for this generous outburst of benevolence. The year closed up, Conference approaching, and this year away from my family again. The Conference this time was to meet in the City of Norfolk, Virginia. The course of study for the third year, upon which I had to be examined was: Watson's Institutes, (the third and fourth parts,) Nast's Introduction to the New Testament, Butler's Analogy of Natural and Revealed Religion, Angus' Hand Book of the Bible, Whately's Logic, and Written Sermon. The books to be read were: Hagenbach's History of Doctrines, Hurst's

History of Rationalism, D' Aubigne's History of the Reformation, Wythe's Argument of Science and Revelation. I met the Committee with the other members of the Class. I learned after the Chairman made his report to the Conference, that my examination was highly complimented. When the appointments were read out I was to go to Old Point Comfort, Va. The appointment was then called Chesapeake City, but has since been changed to Old Point Comfort. This was a station with a comfortable parsonage. Here I had to preach twice every Sabbath, hold prayer-meetings, class-meetings, and attend the Sabbath School. To this place I had to go without my family, as my dear son was too low to move. A few day's before he died I received intelligence that he was worse and I hastened home, but his spirit had departed, as I was leading the Class at Old Point, on Sabbath evening, at six o'clock, April the 27th, in the 25th year of his age. We buried him in the Methodist Episcopal Church burying ground, of Pocomoke City. This closed up the life of John W. Murray, who was a bright light in my family and also in his native town in which he was reared and in which he died.

My wife and I had five children born to us; three are now dead, namely: James Henry, Lavinia Catherine and John William, and two are still living, namely: Francis Thomas, who is engaged in the railroad business in the City of Peoria, Ill., and Harriet Ann, wife of Rev. Albert Jump of the St. Louis Conference, who is stationed in the City of St. Louis, Mo. It is but just to the name of Francis T. Murray, my son, to say that he was a delegate from Worcester County to the Constitutional Convention of 1864, and was one of that patriotic band who passed the Ordinance giving to Maryland a free constitution. After the death and burial of our son, my wife and I packed up our household goods and moved to Old Point Comfort. After being settled in the parsonage, an arrangement was entered into with Captain Woodfin, governor of the Soldiers National Home at Hampton,

Va., by and with the consent of the Official board of the Church to serve that institution as chaplain, giving it preaching once in four weeks, visiting the *Home* every week and burying the dead. Frequently I was by the bedside of the sick and dying two or three times a week, trying to give a word of cheer. I pursued this course during the time I served them, and to show the spirit of those men at my last appointment when I told them that for two years I had served them to the best of my ability and now I must bid them good by. They came forward, took me by the hand and gave me the greatest assurance of their appreciation of my visits to that Institution. Captain Woodfin, the Governor of the House, is deserving great credit for the tact which is exhibited in the laying out of the grounds, for the wise and judicious management, as the executive officer of the Home, which is seen covering the entire Institution, for it is one of the grandest places to look at and to visit. Doctor W. M. Wright, the Surgeon of the Home at that time, is among the princes of the land, a man of noble bearing. The Church at Old Point was not large in its membership, but a nobler set of men and women I have never met, in supporting the Gospel.

When I went to this appointment there was a debt on the Church of eight or nine hundred dollars, at the end of my two years stay there, I reported to Conference the debt reduced to one hundred and seventy-five dollars. I formed many pleasant associations while there, and had many warm friends. The first year that I was there I took no vacation. The second year my health was perceptibly failing. I asked for a few weeks rest, this was readily granted, and a letter was handed to me by William H. Kimberly, Esq., containing a sum of money to bear my expenses, with the names of the donors: Harrison Phoebus, William H. Kimberly and James Kelly. For this surprise I made my acknowledgements. The first year closed up with some few accessions as the result of a revival meeting. The approaching Conference met in Alexan-

dria, Va., in the latter part of February, 1874. I met the Committee of the fourth year's course. The answers to all questions in this course of study had to be submitted to the Committee of Examination in Writing.

To insert them here in detail would be too burdensome, as they amounted to about seventy-five in number, together with the statements required, and filled over sixty-three pages, of closely written matter, in a book of three inches and five eighths wide, by five inches and five eighths long. The leading topics upon which this course of study was based were laid down in sections as follows: Section I, Personal Religions, Life and Habits. Section II, Examination of the Bible. Section III, On the Doctrines of the Bible. Section IV, Church Organization and Government. Section V, Ecclesiastical History. So far as I know this examination was entirely satisfactory. The appointments were read out and I was returned to Old Point. During this year, as I have already stated, my health began to fail, and I had to contemplate the propriety of asking, at the hands of the Conference a rest for one year. I made it a subject of special prayer and sought direction from him who heareth in secret. The year closed up in peace and success in the interests of the church. The approaching Conference was to be held in the City of Portsmouth, Virginia. When it convened I made my request known, which was granted, though not without an expression of regret by the Presiding Bishop, Doctor Jesse T. Peck. I took a supernumerary relation with the understanding that I was to return to the work the next year. I then moved to New Town, now Pocomoke City, and commenced fitting up a resting place. In October, of this year I received a letter from the Presiding Elder, of Richmond District, inquiring whether or not I could take charge of Vienna Circuit, which was left vacant by the former pastor, who had left his post. Immediately, I answered that I would, and, as soon, thereafter, as I could get ready, I started for the work. This Circuit embraced

five appointments. The extremes were Fairfax Court House and Lewinville. The intermediates were Flint Hill, Vienna and Freedom Hill. When I went on this Circuit, I intended to enter the effective ranks again at Conference, but having to travel that Circuit on foot in the winter, through snow, rain and mud, I took such a cold in my head, which went down on my throat forming severe ulcers accompanied with chills and fevers, which completely unfitted me for further service. I was peremptorily advised by my physician to go home and take care of myself. In view of this state of things I was compelled to ask the Conference to continue my relation as Supernumerary. This time the Conference was held in Alexandria, Va., in February, 1876. From that time to the present, I have held my membership in the Conference as a Supernumerary. Now while the shadows of evening gather around me and admonish me that the most of my life work is already done, I review the past and call up, in memory, the days of my childhood, when I bowed at the knees of my mother and learned to say: "Our Father who art in heaven," and: "Now I lay me down to sleep." When I think of my childish sports and plays with my brothers and sisters, at the old homestead; and my young associates, with whom I used to play on the old hill, which is now the Public Square. When I call to mind the time when I married my wife, the companion of my youth and the mother of my children, and that it was here that most of the struggles of life have accorred, in supporting my family. As I call up in memory my dearest ones, who are no more with me here, but whose mouldering dust sleeps in their graves, in the burying ground of the Methodist Episcopal Church. When I think of my early christian association with many, with whom I took sweet counsel in christian fellowship, who have crossed the river before me, and are now in the better land, around whose dying beds I have stood and witnessed their last shouts of victory as they passed away. I say, in reviewing the past, I am constrained to say out of a full



heart, with good will to all my fellow citizens, and malice towards none, Oh! New Town, New Town, now Pocomoke City; with all thy faults I love thee still.

JAMES MURRAY.

# HISTORY OF POGOMOKE CITY FORMERLY NEW TOWN,

ITS ORIGIN AND TOWN LIMITS.

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## CHAPTER I.

In writing a history of New Town, I have been no little perplexed in gathering up evidence in regard to its origin. There is, however, one item of historical fact which gives some clue to it, namely : A certain Col William Stevens, who was, probably, staff officer to Lord Baltimore, established in 1670 what has since been called, for many years, Stevens' Ferry.

A scrap of Col. Stevens' history may not be out of place here. He had a grant from Lord Baltimore to take up all the lands from the mouth of the Pocomoke River to Lewistown, Delaware, and settle the same, which he did, with a colony of Welsh, Irish and English. He was one of Lord Baltimore's counsellors, was Judge of Somerset Court for twenty-two years, and departed this life the 23d day of December, in 1687, in the fifty-seventh year of his age.

The reader will remember that, originally, Somerset County embraced all of Worcester County too, and the Court House stood on the rise of ground, on Edwin Townsend's farm, in Somerset County, at the junction of Cokes Bury and Snow Hill roads, leading to Dividing Creek Bridge. Indeed, the farm, from our earliest recollection, until recently, has been called Court House Farm, but now the name is becoming obsolete.

Steven's Ferry reached from the Somerset side of Pocomoke River, adjoining the Phosphate Factory of Freeman, Lloyd, Mason and Dryden, to the foot of the Pocomoke Bridge, on the Worcester side.

This Ferry was the center of business for this whole section of the country.

The country on both sides of the river was, with some exceptions, a dense wilderness.

The historical fact of Stevens' Ferry being erected in 1670 will serve as a nucleus with which to associate the history of New Town.

All other evidence, which I have been able to obtain relative to the origin of the place is traditional.

Tradition says: About the time or shortly after the erection of Stevens' Ferry a New England trader came up the Pocomoke River in his vessel, laden with New England Rum and Cheese, and sought a landing at the Ferry, to sell his cargo, but the authorities drove him off, and he dropped his vessel down the river to the next knoll on the Worcester side, which we used to call the Hill, but is now called the Public Square.

Here he pitched his tent and traded with the sparse inhabitants, as they would come with their produce to trade for Rum and Cheese.

The reader must conclude, of course, that the plank tent which he put up was the only house, or substitute for a house, in the neighborhood; all around him were forest trees, between him and the river were mud flats and tuckahoes.

Tradition goes on further to say: That about the year 1683 or '84 the place was then called Meeting House Landing, in view of the saying that a Presbyterian House of Worship was erected on the lot which was called, when I was a boy, the Sacher Lot, a nick name for Zachariah, as the lot then belonged to one Zachariah Lambertson, but now belonging to William J. S. Glarke, known of late years as the Adreon Lot, at the foot of Willow St.

"History states that about the year 1680, a petition was gotten up by Colonel William Stevens and others, and sent to the Presbytery of Laggan, Ireland, for a Minister to come and settle in this part of the Colony to preach the Gospel and look after the interests of the Presbyterian Church in these western wilds."

"In 1682 the Rev. Francis Makemie, was sent to the Colony, a man of celebrity, under whose supervision and oversight, tradition says, this house was built.

About the year 1700, the Tobacco Warehouse was built.

Tobacco having been made a legal tender by the House of Burgesses, and a fixed price per pound established, for all debts, public and private, the warehouse became the place of deposit for the circulating medium.

At this juncture of time, the name of the place was changed from Meeting House Landing to Warehouse Landing, or both may alternately have been used. Why the change was made, whether the log Church had been abandoned or not, is all left to conjecture.

I remember, well, the old Tobacco Warehouse, it stood about 120 years, and when it was torn down there was

good material in it, and though I was but a child, yet I had many a romp and play in it, with my little associates, in hide-and-go-seek. It's large tobacco hogsheads, and and scales, and weights are still fresh in my memory. It stood on the hill, between the pump and the south-west corner of Smullen & Bro's., Store.

From 1700 to the days of the Revolution, there is no evidence that I have been able to obtain, either historical or traditional, in regard to New Town.

There are some few facts, however, which are within the writer's own knowledge, which may serve as reminiscences of that period, and fill up in some little degree the place of the lost history. I allude to some few old houses, which were probably coeval with the Old Tobacco Warehouse, one or two of which stood on the ground, now occupied by Smullen & Brother's Storehouse, one adjoining the ground now occupied by Twilly & Brother's Livery Stables, inhabited by an old lady by the name of Elizabeth Matthews. There were three or four more, only one of which I shall call the reader's attention to, which was a small red house, and stood on the south-west corner of Market and Second Streets. In this house a Revolutionary Soldier lived by the name of Daniel Spaulding.

These houses served as land marks, pointing to the period from 1700 to 1776, and show conclusively that they were once occupied by those who have long since passed away, and, so far as we have been able to ascertain, have left no tidings behind them.

The reader is already aware that this place was called Ware House Landing, and that name continued until 1780 or thereabouts, when it was changed to New Town. There is no record of the fact, why, or by whom the change was made. I remember about forty years ago, of having an interview with a man by the name of Reville, who said that he gave to this place the name of New Town. Be that as it may, there are some reflections presumptive of the fact. He was at the time of the interview eighty or ninety years old, so that at the time the place was named, he was twenty or twenty-five years old, admitting the fact that he was not a conspicuous man in the community, and that such changes generally take place by men of distinction, yet it will be remembered that the inhabitants of the place were very few, and the surrounding country sparsely settled, so that there is a possibility that his statement is true, though I leave the reader to form his own conclusions.

## CHAPTER II.

### TOWN LIMITS.

We will now proceed to consider the geographical position or town limits of the place.

There were no incorporate lines encircling it then as we have now, so that I shall have to prescribe them for the town as it existed as late as 1820. As the Hill or Public Square was the center of the town, the reader will start with me from this place, and go out Front Street as far as the Bridge Causeway, or Colonel Merrill's property, thence

take a straight course to the corner of Market and Second Streets, thence out Second to Willow Street, thence down Willow to the junction of Willow and Front Streets, thence on Front to the Hill or Public Square.

These limits may be safely considered as the boundary lines of New Town as late as the above date. In order to have a more perfect view of the place, at this date, we will begin with a description of its County Wharf, Public Square, Streets and Houses. The County Wharf lies directly between Messrs. Clark, and Smullen & Brother's granaries, and is twenty-eight feet long. I have tried to find the date when this wharf was built, by having the record of Worcester and Somerset counties both searched, but have failed; the presumption is, however, that its date reaches back to 1700, which is the date of the building of the Tobacco Warehouse. The reader may now stand upon this wharf and contemplate the fact, that sixty years ago there was naught on either side of it, but bramble, tuckahoes and mud flats. It is true there was a shoal or canoe landing at the foot of Willow Street, more in the direction of Fontain's ice house, where we used to fasten our canoes, and also a landing at the old Shipyard: the same place that is used as a shipyard by James T. Young.

The Public Square or Hill, as we used to call it, was sixty years ago, a hill of some prominence, but time has leveled it. It was then, as now, entirely surrounded by houses, though of a different character, while now they are all business houses; then they were all family resi-

dences, with one or two exceptions, consequently the hill was the center of the town for business and social life.

Here the men and boys would meet in the evenings and have their sports, plays and social pastimes ; here, too, the merchants would pile their lumber, consisting of planks, laths, &c. Here, on this hill, I have witnessed many a hard fight, and many funny scenes.

There were four principal streets, which were called roads, namely : Market Street, which was called Virginia road ; Second Street, which was called Cedar Hall Road ; Front Street, winding round into Linden Street and onward, was called the Snow Hill Road ; and lastly, the old Ferry Road, which had its convergence in the Snow Hill Road, leading to the Hill or Public Square. There were two or three other streets, which were of minor importance, only one of which might be recognized as a public thorough-fare, and that was Willow Street.

Within the limits of the town, there were twenty-eight dwelling houses and seven or eight business houses comprising stores and mechanical shops. Outside of those limits, there were five houses, occupied by families, which might be considered suburban residences.

The old Methodist Episcopal Church that stood on the site of the present one, which now is in the heart of the town, was then in the suburbs, in full conformity with the old custom to put the Church out of town.

The houses were mostly one story high, they were built out of good material, and in workmanlike order, for those days. Some were finished inside with beautiful



panel work, others again were lathed and plastered, while many were never finished at all.

In order to ascertain the population of the town, we may calculate five to a family, the probabilities of which the reader can determine, as well as myself, we have then within its limits one hundred and forty-persons; if we include the five suburban families, on the same basis, we have twenty-five more, making the aggregate one hundred and sixty-five persons living in New Town and its precincts as late as 1820. I have thus given a description of New Town, of its County Wharf, Public Square, Houses, Streets, and Town Limits, up to 1820, and shall close this part of the history by saying that the old Tobacco Warehouse, which had served its day during Colonial times, was, after the independence of the Colonies and the establishment of the currency of the Republic in dollars and cents, left to decay, and having stood until about 1819 was finally torn down.

### CHAPTER III.

#### GROWTH, CHANGE OF NAME, ETC.

Of the enlargement and general improvement of the town, from 1820 to the present time, (1882.)

For the first two decades there was no advancement of any extent in this direction.

From 1840 to 1860, enterprise seemed to lay its hand upon New Town and claim it for its subject. New buildings were erected, of modern taste, comprising store houses, dwelling houses, churches and an academy; some

of them reaching out into the suburbs. For all the country from the corner of Market and Second Streets, all around, was unoccupied save a few dwellings which were scattering.

Where the Protestant Episcopal and Methodist Protestant Churches now stand, together with all other houses on the eastern side of Market Street, was a farm, and the old homestead was where Captain Isaac N. Veasey now lives. All the country on the south-west side of Market Street, save a few unimportant small dwellings, was cultivated lots and woods. All the land from Littleton Duer's corner, the south-eastern side of Second Street, running to Cedar street, embracing the high school and beyond, was a field in which I have worked many a day, when a little boy. "hoeing corn."

"In 1865, an act of incorporation was secured, and in it full power and authority was given the Town Commissioners to widen and straighten old streets, and to lay out and construct new ones, and to perform such other acts, as, in their judgment, might be required to secure the health, happiness and prosperity of the town."

"At the first election held under this charter, the people chose C. C. Lloyd, W. S. C. Polk, Charles Marshall, Joseph Riley and W. J. Long, for Town Commissioners, all good and active men, who soon showed, by their acts, that they were intent on improvements."

"They appointed a commission composed of Edward S. Young, Dr. John L. Hearn, and William S. Dickinson, to make a survey of the town, and to straighten and widen

the old streets and lay out several new ones. They performed their duty promptly and well, and soon the town began to assume something like proportion and regularity. No one, unacquainted with New Town at that period, can imagine the vast changes and improvements made by these acts."

The above quotations I have taken from Dr. John T. B. McMaster's Centennial Address, delivered before the people of Pocomoke City, on the 4th of July, 1876.

The reader will learn that the above commission extended the limits of New Town about three-fourths of a mile, in every direction, from the Public Square, save from its north-western course, as in that direction it is bounded by the Pocomoke river, upon whose southern side the town lies.

From 1865 down to the present day, progress, unprecedented by the past, has marked its course, so that now we have in New Town, or Pocomoke City, well laid out streets, some of which are macadamized and contribute, in no little degree, to the enjoyment of an evening drive.

There are within the limits of the corporation about two hundred and twenty-five houses, comprising dwellings, store houses, mechanical shops, steam mills, churches, the Clark house and high-school building, both of which are ornaments to the place. Indeed, the high-school building is of such a character as to call forth, in terms of praise, the declaration from the Superintendent of Public Schools of Maryland, in an address, delivered before the citizens of New Town, that "it was the finest school building on the Eastern Shore of Maryland."

The dwelling houses are of modern style, and are, with few exceptions, fine buildings, indeed, some of them are of a palatial character, while the churches, seven in number, are all good buildings, and amply accommodate, with seats, the church going people of Pocomoke City.

Before closing our history of New Town, in its buildings and general improvements, from its earliest history to the present, we are compelled to record the fact, that its old name is no more, it has passed away, together with its former inhabitants, and they all lie in the grave together.

The reader will be informed that the citizens of the place, by an almost unanimous request, petitioned the Legislature of Maryland for a new name, setting forth in that petition their desire that it should be called Pocomoke City, and by an action of the General Assembly of Maryland, held in 1878, it was so named.

The credit of this change is due chiefly to the Rev. T. O. Ayres, who was the prime mover in the whole affair.

Now we take rank with other names of modern date and with modern advancement, with a population of 1500 inhabitants.

## CHAPTER IV.

### MERCANTILE ASPECT.

In presenting the Mercantile aspect of New Town, now Pocomoke City, I shall give with it, a brief sketch of the lives of many who have been and are still engaged in the sale of goods.

I have no information of any merchant in New Town earlier than 1790 or 1800.

During that period, there was a Frenchman, by the name of Boozee, who settled in New Town, and commenced the sale of goods.

He lived on the lot which faces on Market, Front and Willow Streets; his store was on the corner of Market and Front Streets.

How long he was engaged in the trade I have no information; he was a man of some wealth, and when he died, Colonel Levin Pollett settled his estate. He had a wife and one child, his wife died some time after him; they were both buried on the lot where they lived. What became of the daughter I have no information.

In 1803 Michael Murray settled in New Town, and commenced the sale of goods; his dwelling and store house both were on the lot where William J. S. Clarkenow lives. He was also engaged in the shipping business. He sold goods until 1818 when he retired from mercantile life. He accumulated considerable property. For several years after he retired from the busy whirl of mercantile life, he served as Post-Master for New Town.

In 1827, he moved to the City of Baltimore, where in 1831, he died, being at the time of his death sixty-nine years of age.

Somewhere near 1803, Edward Stevenson settled in New Town, and commenced merchandising. He lived on the lot where Mrs. Mary Merrill now lives. His store-house was on the Hargis lot adjoining William Redden's house. Afterwards he built the store house, where Townsend and Stevenson sell goods, at the corner of Front

Street and Public Square ; here he continued store keeping until he died, which event took place in 1816.

Sometime after he came to New Town, he built the dwelling house now occupied by his grandson, Jacob. Stevenson, and lived in it until his death. He left a widow and six children. He also amassed considerable wealth, and left each one of his children a handsome property. His tomb is in the Methodist Episcopal Church burying ground, of this place, with the following inscription upon the marble slab that covers his remains :

“In memory of Edward Stevenson, who was born, February 14th, 1771, and died the 22nd day of September, 1816, aged forty-five years, seven months and eight days.”

During the time aforesaid, there were several other stores in New Town, kept by Jesse Henderson, Stephen Redden, Joshua Sturgis, and a young man by the name of Bounds ; but Michael Murray and Edward Stevenson were the leading merchants of their day.

The articles of merchandise, by the leading stores, were the finest dress goods, such as silks, satins, cambrics, Irish linen, broad cloths, cassimeres, together with all other dry goods, hardware, crockeryware, and a general stock of groceries and spirituous liquors.

The other stores dealt in groceries, liquors and the more common dry goods.

As Jesse Henderson, Stephen Redden and Joshua Sturgis were old citizens of New Town, it is but just to

their memory that the following tribute should here be inserted :

Jesse Henderson was a ship carpenter by trade; when he commenced the sale of goods, and how long he was engaged in it, I have no knowledge. With him, his wife, daughter and grandchildren, I have been most intimately acquainted. He was an honest, upright man in his dealings, very retired in his disposition, and highly respected by the entire community. He was great grandfather to Edward H. Clarke and Mrs. Mary Quinn. He died in 1832 or '33, and his remains rest in the old Long Burying Ground, on the farm now occupied by William W. Quinn, where the most of the Long family, who have deceased, are buried.

His wife, aunt Polly Henderson, for so we used to call her, was a most exemplary woman, I knew her well from my infancy to the time of her death.

While I am giving some account of her husband, I feel it due to her name to say that she was my ideal of a model wife. She was a keeper-at-home, no gadder-about, no tattler, no busy-body in other people's business. I never heard her speak an unkind word of any one; always had a pleasant word and pleasant face.

She died in a good old age, and was buried in the Methodist Episcopal Church Burying ground, of this place.

Stephen Redden sold goods, in New Town, for many years, and, although his stock in trade was not so extensive as the heaviest merchants, yet his business yielded

him a comfortable support. He raised an intelligent family of children, one of which was considered to be the smartest young man in New Town, in his day ; I allude to his son, George S. Redden, whose history will be given under another heading.

Stephen Redden was a good citizen, peaceable, inoffensive, and full of fun ; he was somewhat beyond middle life when he died. He was buried in the Methodist Episcopal Church burying ground, in New Town.

Joshua Sturgis was one of the best of men, and his wife was equally as good as he was. They were the salt of the earth in all that was good and great ; great in the sense of natural and mental gifts, for they raised a family of boys, whose talents for mathematics have never been excelled by any boys raised in New Town. They both passed away, at a good old age, as ripe shocks of corn ready for the garner.

## CHAPTER V.

### MERCANTILE ASPECT (CONTINUED).

After the death of Edward Stevenson, David Long, who was his chief clerk, married his widow, settled his estate, and commenced merchandising, in his own name, at the same stand where he had been clerking.

He sold goods until 1832, during which year he died. He was buried on his father's farm, at present occupied by William W. Quinn.

Upon his tomb stone is the following inscription :

"In memory of David Long, who was born the 23rd



day of November, 1788, and died the 4th day of May, 1832, Aged forty-three years, five months, and eleven days."

"O ye whose cheek the tear of pity stains,  
Draw near with pious reverence and attend.  
Here lie the loving husband's dear remains,  
The tender father and the generous friend,  
The pitying heart that felt for human woe,  
The dauntless heart that feared no human pride,  
The friend of man, to vice alone a foe;  
For even his failings leaned to virtue's side."

As David Long was one of the most successful merchants in the early history of New Town, it is but just to his memory that a brief sketch of his life should here be inserted.

He was born the 23rd day of November, 1778, and reared on his father's farm until he entered Edward Stevenson's store as clerk.

How old he was when this change in his life took place we are left to conjecture, at all events he must have been quite a large boy.

As it was attended with no little difficulty in getting even the rudiments of an education, in those days, it is presumable that the advantages which he had in the store, in the use of the pen, and figures, was of great service to him in developing his latent powers as an accountant. He commenced business for himself when he was twenty-seven years old, and for sixteen years he applied himself closely to business. When he died, in 1832, he had

amassed, what might be called, an Eastern Shore fortune, the probable sum of \$40,000.

He was a man of even temperament, with an amiable disposition, polite, obliging, and very winning in his manners, consequently he was very popular; indeed, he had won the respect and confidence of the entire surrounding country, and it would have been a futile effort in anyone to have sought to divide the patronage that went into his store.

Captain John W. Long commenced the mercantile business, in New Town, in 1815. During this year, he married Miss Sally Laws Henderson, a young lady of intellectual culture and high moral worth.

Captain Long was a brother to David Long and was his senior by two years. While yet a youth he chose the life of a sailor, and made his first voyage to Amsterdam, in a brig built on the dividing creek. He rose, from before the mast, to be captain of a ship.

During the Berlin and Milan decrees, under Napoleon Bonaparte, he was taken prisoner and carried to Naples; upon his release, he returned home, and, as already stated, he commenced merchandising in New Town.

His store ranked as first-class, though he did not do business to the extent that his brother David did. He was engaged in the sale of goods nineteen years. He was the father of four children, only two of whom are now living: Rev. John D. Long and David H. Long, and was grandfather of William W. and John L. Quinn.

Captain Long was an intelligent, unassuming and strictly honest man. He was the poor man's friend, a kind husband and father, and died honored and loved by all who knew him. I have the following from the old family Bible, now in the possession of William W. Quinn :

"Captain John W. Long, was born the 22nd day of October, 1786, near New Town, and died the 27th day of May, 1834, in the 48th year of his age.

There were other stores in New Town at the time of which I have been speaking, namely: Jacob Riggins and John Burnett, doing business under the firm of Riggins & Burnett; their store ranked as first-class.

The others were kept by Samuel Carey, McKimmie Lecompte, father of the venerable James Lecompte, of Snow Hill; and Nicholas Jones. John Burnett was uncle to William S. Dickinson, Mrs. Sally Blain and Mrs. Elizabeth Hughes; and was the best penman in New Town, in his day. He finally moved to the City of Baltimore, where he died.

John S. Stevenson succeeded David Long, and commenced the sale of goods in 1833. He sold goods about nine years, when he retired from mercantile life.

Mr. Stevenson was very popular, indeed, he was the leading spirit of the place, in his day, he seemed to seek more the public good than his own emolument.

He was quite a mechanical genius, could construct almost any agricultural implement that would make labor easier, and in this direction he was much sought after.

In 1833, he conceived the idea of stretching a rope across the river, at Steven's Ferry, by which the propulsion of the ferry boat was conducted with greater ease.

Before this event, the boat was propelled by oars, which mode of crossing, in stormy weather, was attended with great danger.

He had a high sense of moral rectitude, was strictly honest in his dealings, was a warm friend, and out-spoken and un-compromising in his denunciations of those he conceived to be in the wrong.

In 1854, he went to the state of Missouri, and in 1867 he died, in the city of Hannibal, in the 60th year of his age.

About the year 1833, Colonel William H. Merrill commenced merchandising, in New Town, he was also engaged in the shipping business; he had an extensive trade, and made considerable money; he sold goods about thirty years, and retired from active life.

Colonel Merrill was a native of Worcester County, served an apprenticeship at the hatting business with Jacob Rogers, in the city of Baltimore.

He commenced the hatting business for himself in Snow Hill, married Miss Eliza Stevenson, of this place, and moved here, where he continued the hatting business until the above named period, when he commenced to sell goods.

He was quite a business man, accommodating, obliging, polite, and dignified in his manners; was a warm friend and quite genial in social bearing.

He lived to a good old age, and died at home, in the midst of his friends, at the age of seventy-two years ; his remains were deposited in the Protestant Episcopal Church Burying Ground, of this place.

## CHAPTER VI.

### MERCANTILE ASPECT (CONTINUED).

During John S. Stevenson's mercantile life, there were other stores in the place, namely : William R. Truitt, Burroughs & Davis, Maddux & Fields, James Stevenson, and probably others. Some of them did quite a heavy business. They were all good citizens and their trade yielded them a fair income.

There is only one of this number that I shall give an extended account of, and this is James Stevenson, and it is because of the novelty of his case.

He commenced to sell goods at an early date, in New Town, prior to this, however, he taught school.

I have heard it said of him that he commenced merchandising on a capital of eighty dollars. His store, of course, was a small affair, but his trade was sufficient to give him a comfortable living. He dealt principally in sugar, coffee, molasses, pork, liquor, tobacco and a few of the coarser dry goods. He was magistrate during a great part of his mercantile life.

He went by the name of little Jimmie, in consequence of his being small of stature.

He sold goods for thirty years, during all that time he never visited the city, but purchased his goods by proxy.

He died 1861, aged sixty-seven years, and his tomb stands in the Presbyterian Cemetery, of Pocomoke City.

In 1840, Grove & Harris bought out the stock in trade of John S. Stevenson, and pursued the mercantile business until 1844, when they retired.

In 1844, William J. S. Clarke and William H. T. Clarvoe united in co-partnership, in the sale of goods, in New Town, under the firm of Clarke & Clarvoe, which firm continued successfully for eight years, when by mutual consent they dissolved partnership.

Mr. Clarke, at slight intervals, has conducted a business on a large scale ever since; part of the time by himself and the balance of the time with his son, Edward H. Clarke, and his brother John H. Clarke.

His business career runs nearly thirty-eight years.

He built the first steamboat, the first Marine railway, and the first three masted schooner on the Eastern Shore. He has during his time built from forty to fifty vessels. During the last sixteen years he has, in common with his brother, run the steam mill business and Marine railway, which have done an average business of \$40,000 annually. He owns ten thousand acres of land, some of it is in fine estates.

He also owns thirty houses and lots, and amongst them is the well known Clarke House, which is one of the first Hotels on the Eastern Shore. He is also one of the directors and stockholders of the Eastern Shore Steamboat Company. He has been twice married, his first wife

was Miss Amanda C. Clarvoe, daughter of the well-known Dr. John B. H. W. Clarvoe ; his second wife was Miss Elizabeth A. Hargis, daughter of Thomas M. Hargis. He has four children, two by each wife.

It will be no detriment to Mr. Clarke to say that he was a poor boy. He was born the twenty-third day of June, 1823, in Somerset county, near this place. His mother died when he was two weeks old ; he was then taken and raised by Captain Robert W. Swan, whose wife was a relative of his mother.

Captain Swan, being a New Englander and a sea captain was well educated : consequently he was well prepared to give Mr. Clarke a liberal education, for those days' which he did.

Mr. Clarke began his mercantile life with John S. Stevenson, in the fall of 1838, in the fifteenth year of his age. He remained with Mr. Stevenson two years. In 1840, he went to New Orleans at the age of seventeen years, and remained there until 1844, when he returned again to New Town and commenced to do business for himself as before stated.

In Mr. Clarke's case, we can see what can be done by a man of push, who is determined to succeed, for he had nothing to commence on but the wide world in which to ply his active mind, and this scrap of his life shows how well he has played his part.

There are two features of his character that are worthy of notice :

The first is, that he is an indomitable worker, always

full of business and always at business. The second is, an ardent desire to promote his friends.

About 1835, Joseph Fisher engaged in the sale of goods in New Town, he occupied the old stand of his father-in-law, Stephen Redden, for several years and then moved to the city of Baltimore.

Between 1844 and 1850, there were several other stores in New Town, such as : William Townsend, Irving Merrill, William T. Hearn, Oliver Jones, J. Francis Henderson and David H. Long, doing business under the firm of Henderson and Long, Quinn and Sturgis, Ashcraft and Risley ; after a while David Long drew out of the firm of Henderson and Long, and Henderson took as a partner, George W. Hargis, then James Sturgis as a third partner. After continuing sometime Henderson bought out Hargis and Sturgis and transacted business by himself ; after continuing by himself for sometime, he took as partners his brother Henry Henderson and Levin Conner.

During this partnership J. Francis Henderson died, then Henry Henderson and Levin Conner conducted the business for two years, when Conner sold out to Henderson, then Henry Henderson transacted business in his own name for five years or until 1865, when he closed out.

All the above named stores were first-class stores, and the proprietors were all highly reputable men ; they have all passed away except Henry Henderson and Levin Conner, who are still living in this place, and David H. Long, who lives in the City of Baltimore, and is engaged



in a very extensive wholesale phosphate house, as general agent.

Mr. Long is something over fifty years of age, of high moral character, of tried integrity, and has ever been found faithful to all trusts committed to his care, and is worthy of any position of trust and responsibility which may be placed in his hands.

## CHAPTER VII.

### MERCANTILE ASPECT (CONTINUED.)

In 1843, Captain Henry Long commenced merchandising, in New Town, and continued until 1855, in which year he died. His store was considered the poor man's store to deal at; he always kept a heavy stock of groceries, and sold his goods lower than others.

It was said by some that there was no chance for other merchants in New Town, as long as Captain Long sold goods. His eventful life is worthy of notice in this history; in many respects he was a remarkable man; he commenced life a poor boy, with but little education, engaged as cook on board of a schooner, and continued the life of a sailor until he was 63 years of age. He then engaged in the sale of goods until he died. He rose from the position of cook to be master and owner of his vessel. While engaged in the vessel trade he amassed considerable wealth.

Captain Long, though comparatively uneducated, had studied human nature, and had as large a share of the knowledge of men as the most scientific. His was a

decided character ; integrity marked the whole course of his life.

He was true to his engagements. No one ever feared that Captain Long would not meet his word. He was also kind and benevolent. Many a dollar he has given to the poor ; he took a real pleasure in accommodating and helping those who were in need.

Captain Harry long, for so we used to call him, was a bachelor ; and, as a matter of course, his associations were with the young folks. He was also quite eccentric ; would make it a point to go to church at least twice a year, when the preacher would come on the circuit, and go again to hear his farewell discourse.

On one occasion he went out to church ; it so happened that the young preacher had the first appoint. Captain Long took his seat as usual near the door. After the sermon was over the young men gathered around him and asked him how he liked the discourse. Captain Long had a by-word, very pat, which he called "By Jing," and he was much in the habit of smacking his mouth and shrugging his shoulders in conversation. When he was asked, "How did you like the discourse?" he replied: "O! by jing, boys," with a smack of the mouth and shrug of the shoulders, "that other preacher is a big preacher."

"How do you know, Capt. Long, have you ever heard him?" "No, by jing, I have never heard him, but I will tell you what I go by. They generally send them like shad—a big one and a little one together."

Captain Long was full of fun for the young folks. Sometimes he tried his talent at poetry, for instance, the following as a sample :

“As she slips she slides along,  
A trusty friend is hard to find.”

He was thoughtful and kind to the poor. He left in his will the sum of \$2,500 to be appropriated towards educating the poor children in and around New Town. This sum was appropriated by the Commissioners or the School Board of the county, by and with the consent of the heirs of Captain Long, to the erection of the High School building in New Town.

As this departure from the will was made, it was but just to the memory of Captain Long that the building should have been called the Henry Long High School.

Captain Henry Long was brother to Captain John W. Long and David Long, and was the oldest of the three.

When he died he was by his own request, buried in a pine coffin, by the side of his sister, Polly Henderson, in the Methodist Episcopal Church burying ground of New Town.

The following inscription may be found upon the marble slab that covers his remains :

“In memory of Henry Long, who was born the 27th of April, 1780, and died the 3rd day of January, 1855. Kind to the poor in his life, in death their wants were not forgotten.”

In 1855, John P. Hargis and William S. Dickinson

commenced merchandising under the name of Hargis & Dickinson, at the corner of Market and Commerce streets. Previous to this, however, there was a firm by the name of Jones, Hearn & Co., which occupied the same stand, how long they did business I am not able to say.

The store of Hargis & Dickinson was a first-class store, comprising dry goods and groceries, liquor excepted. This firm continued successfully until 1865, when by mutual consent, they dissolved partnership.

John P. Hargis continued the business in his own name about six years and retired.

William S. Dickinson again commenced mercantile life, forming a co-partnership with I. H. Merrill and F. H. Dryden, two enterprising young merchants, who were already selling goods under the firm of Merrill & Dryden. This connection with Merrill & Dryden took place in 1867. This firm was known as Dickinson, Merrill & Dryden, Mr. Dickinson being already in possession of the store house, at the corner of Market and Commerce Sts. The firm, having an opportunity of renting the store-rooms adjoining, previously occupied by A. S. Stevens and James S. Primrose, connected the three together, having three entrances on Market street and one on Commerce street, and the buildings being so connected that customers could pass from one apartment of the store to the other without going out of doors. They arranged their stock in trade in three departments, occupying the central room for dry goods and notions, with groceries, hardware, &c., liquor excepted, on one side; and boots,

shoes and gentlemen's furnishing goods on the other. This firm did a heavy business from 1867 to 1874, when by mutual agreement they dissolved partnership, each one taking a department and continuing the business in the separate branches so as not to conflict with each others interests. In this division, William S. Dickinson the dry goods and notion department, I. H. Merrill the boot, shoe and gentlemen's furnishing department, F. H. Dryden the grocery and hardware department. Here were three stores made out of one, each one doing a good business.

In 1878, F. H. Dryden sold out his stock of goods to H. T. Stevenson and E. F. Gibbons, this firm continued business but a short time, when E. F. Gibbons sold out to H. T. Stevenson, and Mr. Stevenson then took as a partner Dr. Sidney W. Handy, the firm now doing business under the name of Stevenson & Co. In the fall of 1881 they added to the hardware and grocery department that of dry goods, boots and shoes, and are doing a thriving business.

Stevenson & Co., are the first in Pocomoke City to introduce into their business house an elevator.

At the commencement of 1881, Mr. I. H. Merrill took into partnership, with himself, two sprightly young men of this place, James P. Blain and William F. King, and the business of the house is now transacted by this company. William S. Dickinson has associated with the dry goods business, that of furniture also, and as I have given a brief history of Mr. Dickinson as a merchant, I feel it a pleasure, to give a synopsis of his life, as I have known him from

his infancy. He was born the fifteenth day of March, 1833. Forty years ago, or more, he was a member of the Sabbath School, in this place, and I often call up in memory the Sabbath School Exhibitions of those days, and the speeches of those who were then children but now are the venerable fathers and mothers of the present day. Frequently in meeting Mr. Dickinson on the street and elsewhere, I think of him on the stage in delivering his speech, commencing with, "you will scarce expect one of my age, to speak in public on the stage, &c."

He was always a good boy, thoughtful, studious and industrious.

At the age of thirteen he entered the store of his cousin, Joseph Bratton, Esq., at Barren Creek Springs, then Somerset county, Md., as clerk. He remained in this situation about fifteen months, when he returned to New Town.

After returning home he went to school about one year, when he entered the store of Captain Henry Long, in 1848, as clerk. He remained in this situation until the death of Captain Long, which event took place in 1855. It was found by the last will and testament of Captain Long that William S. Dickinson, in connection with his father, James T. Dickinson, were left executors of his estate.

This was no small amount of confidence which Captain Long reposed in Mr. Dickinson, as the estate was a heavy one.

Integrity has marked his whole life, and if it were possible that one could be conscientious to a fault, I would say that of him. He is a ruling Elder in the Presbyterian Church in Pocomoke City. He has three children—two daughters and a son, who are an honor to his name, and adorn his home with bright sunshine, and are as precious gems around his table of plenty.

## CHAPTER VIII.

### MERCANTILE ASPECT (CONTINUED).

Upon the dissolution of partnership of Clarke & Clarvoe in 1852, William H. T. Clarvoe and James Merrill united in copartnership, under the firm of Clarvoe & Merrill, in the sale of goods, occupying the same stand that Clarke and Clarvoe occupied.

This firm continued two years, when Mr. Merrill sold out to Mr. Clarvoe.

Mr. Clarvoe conducted the business by himself until 1858, when he sold out to William W. and James A. Melvin, acting under the firm of W. W. & J. A. Melvin.

This firm transacted business for a while in the storehouse formerly occupied by Mr. Clarvoe, after which they purchased the wharf and ground upon which they built the storehouse, which is at present occupied by Smullin & Brother.

They did a heavy business from 1858 to 1866, when they sold out their stock in trade, together with their storehouse and wharf, to Stephen E. Mason.

Stephen E. Mason conducted a heavy business from

1866 to 1870, when he sold out his stock of goods to John W. Selby and Julius J. Smullin, two enterprising young men, who did business under the firm of Selby & Smullin until 1877, when Mr. Selby sold out his interest in the store to Julius J. and Albert Smullin. Smullin & Brother keep on hand a general assortment of dry goods, groceries, boots, shoes, hats, etc., and are doing a thriving business.

These two young men are worthy of great praise for their business qualifications and fidelity, and it is said that they stand number one in business circles in the cities.

In 1878, John W. Selby purchased the ground at the north-east corner of Market and Front streets and erected a large fine building for store and town hall purposes; the store room is a spacious one, the upper room is used for town hall purposes. This is one of the finest store houses, and for such a purpose is an ornament to Pocomoke City. Mr. Selby has a well assorted and well arranged stock of dry goods, groceries, boots, shoes, hats, etc.

In 1854, Benjamin F. Ulman commenced merchandising in New Town, and sold goods for some time, after which he moved to the City of Baltimore where he is still doing business, and report says he has a bank of his own and is worth \$500,000.

In 1862, Major T. and Jerome B. Hall commenced merchandising in New Town, at first dealing altogether in the hardware line; after a while they branched out more at large in a general dry goods, grocery, boot and shoe house, under the firm of Hall & Bro.



In 1863, they added to their mercantile trade that of steam saw mill business; in 1868, that of ship building; and in 1872, the Marine railway business. In 1878 they took into copartnership L. Fuller Hall, son of Jerome B. Hall. The company now doing business under the firm of Hall, Bro. & Co. This firm with this heavy business resting upon them, employ sixty men annually, repair about seventy-five vessels annually, and have built during their business life, about twenty-five new vessels. Their annual business aggregating \$30,000.

They own two steam saw mills, a Marine Railway. 300 acres of land and 23 houses and lots, some of the houses are fine buildings.

In thus giving a brief outline of the business life of these two brothers it will, also, be of interest to the reader to learn something of their general history.

In view of their success in life, this will be given with the greatest pleasure, for I knew them when they were little flaxy headed boys.

Their father, Benjamin Hall, was a highly respected man, a carpenter by trade and a captain of militia; he died when these gentlemen were little children, leaving a widow and six children, without any assistance, to get their living as best they could. It is true the family lived on their own place, but that was very little more than a staying place, the little boys worked like little giants. I have seen them coming to town with a load of pine wood, which they had cut, when you would think they were scarcely large enough to come to town any way.

Their mother, with the children, struggled against adversity until these two boys were old enough to go to a trade ; then they commenced to learn the blacksmith business with George W. Landing. They served an apprenticeship with Mr. Landing, and when he retired from the shop they took charge of it in their own name, and worked hard and continuously at the business until they entered mercantile life, as before stated.

The reader, probably, is already thinking about their school advantages. They lived in the country and could only go to school, occasionally, in the winter time ; what little learning they got in this way was of very little advantage to them, as they experienced in the commencement of their mercantile life, in trying to use the pen and in calculating figures. They, however, learned to use the pen and calculate figures, and how to make money, also ; and their record shows the character of their intellect and business capacity.

They are both members of the Baptist Church, in Pocomoke City ; Major T. Hall being a deacon. Their ages are, respectively, forty-eight and fifty-six years ; Major T. being the eldest.

In 1856, C. C. Lloyd opened a drug store, which was the first ever established in New Town ; in addition to drugs he kept oils, paints, stationery, jewelry and variety store.

He has, during his mercantile life, closely applied himself to business, always at his post, he is polite,

obliging and accomodating, and has made money. He has been sheriff of Worcester county. During 1881, he united in partnership with Edgar Fontaine, who was also in the drug business, thus the two stores became one; they are now doing business under the firm of Lloyd and Fontaine, and are prospering.

In 1862, Dr. D. J. O. Truitt commenced the apothecary and variety business, in New Town, and has conducted it successfully to the present. In 1862, Dr. Samuel S. Quinn and Albert S. Merrill commenced the drug business, and continued it until 1864, when they retired. In 1866, Dr. John T. B. McMaster opened a drug store in co-partnership with Ashton Milbourn, which firm continued until 1869, when Dr. McMaster sold out his interest in the store to Ashton Milbourn.

In 1869, Ashton Milbourn and William T. Broughton united in the drug business and conducted it until 1873, at which time they sold out their stock in trade to Messrs. Fontaine and Turpin. This firm continued for two years, when Mr. Turpin sold out to Mr. Fontaine. From 1875 to the present, or until Mr. Fontaine united in business with C. C. Lloyd, he has been quite attentive to business; has built up a good trade, and has become a popular merchant.

In 1860, William W. Quinn & Brother opened a general dry goods and grocery store, which they conducted until 1873, when they closed out. In 1855, W. S. C. Polk commenced merchandising in New Town, and

in 1863 he took as a partner his brother, Emerson G. Polk. This firm continued until 1866, when he sold out his interest in the store to his brother Emerson.

From 1866 until the present Emerson G. Polk has conducted a dry goods, clothing, boot and shoe store of quite an extensive character, and keeps on hand a general assortment of first class cloths for gentlemen's wear : and none need fear in going to him for a good article and of getting what they want. He is polite, obliging and attentive to business.

In 1868, Henry King commenced merchandising, in New Town, and conducted the business until 1875, when he closed out.

In 1864, John W. Mezick commenced merchandizing, in New Town, and continued until 1866, when he retired from business, and removed to the State of Missouri.

In 1863 or '64, the Messrs. Bachrachs were engaged in the sale of goods, in New Town, about one year, after which they settled in Baltimore, where they are still doing business, and have become wealthy.

In 1864, Littleton T. Clarke, Thos. J. Blain and Thos. N. Williams, formed a co-partnership in merchandising in New Town. They kept a first class dry goods and grocery store. They continued in the business until 1866, when they closed out.

In 1867, Captain Robert Henry engaged in mercantile life in New Town. His store is a first class dry goods and grocery store. Captain Henry not only owns his

stock in trade, but three schooners, seven houses and several building lots and two farms. Some of the houses rank among the finest houses in the town. His entire property may be safely estimated at \$30,000. In thus describing his wealth, the reader may be anxious to learn something of the man.

Well, as I have known him from his infancy, it will give me pleasure to show him up as a wide-awake, sagacious business man. Let me say in the first place, however, that he is a man of color, and was raised to work. When but a boy he became a sailor, and was hand before the mast, and after he became his own man he laid up \$1,400, the result of his hard labor on board of vessels.

After this he joined Ashcraft & Risley in the vessel trade, and here was the mine of wealth which he struck. After some years this partnership dissolved, and since then he has operated by himself.

Captain Henry has no education. He can neither read nor write, but although he is without this necessary qualification, yet he studies men and business; and there are but few more shrewd business men than Captain Henry. He has six children, and he is over 50 years of age.

## CHAPTER IX.

### MERCANTILE ASPECT (CONTINUED).

In 1851, Mrs. Araminta Hall commenced the millinery and ladies trimming business, which she has conducted

up to the present ; has been very successful in business, and has made money.

In 1830, Mrs. Eliza Merrill established the millinery and ladies trimming business, in New Town, and conducted the same for 35 years, and made money.

In 1846, Miss Anna H. Henderson commenced the millinery and ladies trimming business, in New Town. In 1863, she married Mr. William T. Hearn, and afterwards her store was familiarly known as Mrs. Anna Hearn's store. She conducted the business successfully until 1863, in which year she died.

In 1855, Miss Amereth J. Trader commenced the millinery, notion and ladies trimming business in New Town. About one year after this she married Mr. Littleton T. Clarke, after which her house of business was known as Mrs. Jane Clarke's store.

In 1866 Mr. Clarke died. She continued the business, however, without intermission, and in 1871 she married Mr. Henry A. DeKay. After this her business commenced increasing until it has assumed its present proportions as one of the finest millinery, notion and ladies trimming stores on the Eastern Shore.

In 1849, Mrs. Julia Redden commenced the millinery business and conducted the same until 1861, when she closed out.

In 1864, Mrs. Ursula B. Henderson, commenced the millinery, notion and ladies trimming business, in New Town, and has continuously conducted the same until

the present. Mrs. Henderson is industrious and attentive to her businesss, enterprising and unyielding in her purpose to succeed. If these qualifications are a true index to success, she is bound to win.

She commenced business on fifty dollars and has increased to such an extent as to warrant the declaration that her house, for the beauty and tasteful arrangement of goods, together with its heavy stock in trade, will compare favorably with any house of like character in the cities. In 1866, Mrs. Ella Foster commenced the millinery business, and continued the same for about two years. In 1867, Miss Lizzie Clayville commenced the millinery business and conducted the same about two years and retired.

In 1866, Mrs. Mary A. Tipton commenced the millinery business aud continued with slight intervals until 1880, when she moved to Philadelphia.

In 1876, Zadock J. Hall and his son, Charles S. Hall, commenced merchandising in Pocomoke City under the firm of C. S. Hall & Co.; this partnership business lasted two years, when Zadok J. Hall sold out his interest in the store to Richard Hall another son of his.

This firm is now doing business under the name of C. S. Hall & Brother, two enterprising young men, who without an accident will succeed.

A word here in reference to Zadok J. Hall may be interesting to the reader: He is brother to Major T. Hall and Jerome B. Hall, who have already been noticed in

this history. He was subject to all the privations that marked their earlier years, and was reared under the most discouraging circumstances, without a friend who was able to take him by the hand and promote him, and without education ; yet by dint of perseverance, has made his mark in the world as well as his brothers. He has attained a competency and lives retired from the whirl of business life, taking delight in the improvement and cultivation of his little farm. Mr. Hall is also a member of the Baptist Church, in Pocomoke City. He has four children, and he is fifty-two years old.

In 1878, Herbert H. King and William Sidney Dryden formed a partnership, under the title of H. H. King & Co., in a first-class dry goods and grocery store, in Pocomoke City.

This firm is doing a safe business, enterprising and polite, they must win.

Mr. Dryden, one of this firm, has been engaged in business nearly twenty years, in the City of Baltimore. He left his father's home, a young man, to seek his fortune with no other help but his own native talent. After being engaged in business for some time in the city, he worked his way up to a clerkship as salesman, in one of the largest wholesale dry-good houses in the city, that of William Devries & Co. In this house he has been engaged without intermission for seventeen years, the last three of which have been partially devoted to the collection of claims for the house.



This trust, committed by the house to him, shows not only their confidence in his integrity, but also their confidence in his tact and business ability in dealing with men. He has succeeded above many of his chance and has made money.

About the year 1869, James W. Payne commenced merchandising, in New Town and continued in business until his death, which occurred in January, 1878.

About 1866, Emerson Melvin commenced the sale of goods, in New Town ; he continued in the business with great success until he died, which event took place in 1879. His estate was worth \$6,000 clear of debt.

In the settlement of his estate, the inventory of his personal property was the largest that had ever been entered in the Registers office of Worcester County. He first commenced on fifty dollars capital.

About the year 1865, William H. S. Merrill added clothing and gents' furnishing goods to his stock of boots and shoes, he having engaged in the sale of boots and shoes several years previous. He sold goods until 1871, when he sold out to Robinson & Matthews, who conducted the business for five or six years and then closed out.

In 1877, A. G. Marshall commenced merchandising, in Pocomoke City ; he conducted the business until the spring of 1881, when he closed out.

In 1870, Mrs. Sally Payne commenced the confectionery and candy business, in Pocomoke City, and continues the same to the present.

In 1874, Ephraim A. Stevens commenced the notion and ladies' trimming business, in Pocomoke City; he continued until 1880, when he closed this business and engaged in a green grocery and provision store. Sometime during the year, he took as a partner Roland E. Bevans, and they carried on the business under the firm of Stevens & Bevans, this firm, however, did not continue long before Mr. Bevans drew out. Mr. Stevens continued the business until 1882 and closed out.

In 1856, Miss Charlotte and Miss Ann Truitt, two sisters, were engaged in the confectionary and notion business, in New Town, when they commenced and how long they continued the business I cannot say.

Between 1856 and 1860, Mrs. Mary A. Smullin engaged in the confectionery business and continued the same until her death, which event occurred in April, 1881.

About 1870, Mrs. Ellen Payne engaged in the confectionery business, and in about two years she sold out to Mrs. Sally, Mason, who continued the business for several years.

Sometime between 1872 and 1875, R. H. Pennewell, Francis A. Stevenson and Allison Fleming engaged in merchandising in a store house occupying the site now occupied by the store house of J. W. Selby. The house was burned down while Mr. Fleming was conducting business.

In 1872, Edward S. Young commenced the tobacco, cigar and confectionery business, in New Town, and con-

ducted the same until 1878; prior to this, George S. Merrill, Alexander Ebberts and John Walters, respectively, were engaged in it.

As Mr. Young is the oldest native citizen in the place he is entitled to a sketch of his life in its history: He was born in 1807 and consequently is now in the 75th year of his age. He, like many others, was raised a poor boy, and had to work out, at twelve and a half cents per day, to help his mother in supporting the family. When of sufficient age, he was apprenticed to Colonel William H. Merrill to learn the hatting business, after his maturity, he settled in this, his native place, and with but one slight interval has remained here to the present. He was engaged, for several years, in the steam milling business. He has been a member of the Methodist Protestant Church nearly fifty years, has been ardently devoted to, and a liberal supporter of that Church, he has, probably, though always poor, contributed more to church building, in New Town in the past, than any other man in it.

He has been the father of several children, all of whom are no more, except one son, and he lives in Colorado.

Mr. Young reminds me of the ancient worthy patriarchs, leaning upon the top of his staff, and waiting for the summons to a brighter home above, and is entitled to the kindly greetings of all lovers of the aged and the good.

In 1878, Capt. H. H. Husted entered into the tobacco, cigar, confectionery and fruit business, in which he is

gaged at present. Capt. Husted is very attentive to business; is very polite and obliging, and is quite successful in business.

In 1878, John L. Quinn engaged in the sale of tobacco, cigars, confectionery and fruits, and continues the same with success.

Mrs. Stubbins and Mrs. Whittington both have confectionery stores, and are prosperous in business. In 1878, Simpson Katzenberger merchandised in Pocomoke City about one year and then closed out. In 1877, Miss Ruth Stone commenced the notion business, in Pocomoke City, and continued it for about three years, when she removed to Connecticut, her native State.

In 1879, Miss Virginia Wilkinson and Miss Virginia Matthews united in copartnership in the millinery, notion and ladies trimming business in Pocomoke City. Their house is called the Philadelphia branch store, and truly it is very aptly so-called, for it will compare favorably with the city in the taste exhibited in the selection of their goods, in the prices they charge, and in the style and neatness of their work. These young ladies rank among the finest milliners of the day, either in the city or country.

In 1880, Miss Ruth Pollett commenced the notion and ladies trimming business in Pocomoke City, and continued until 1881, when she closed out. In 1880, J. J. Francis Townsend and Ira T. Stevenson engaged in a dry goods and grocery store which they continue at the present. They are very worthy men.

## CHAPTER X.

## MERCANTILE ASPECT (CONTINUED).

1868, Edward H. Clarke commenced the mercantile business, in New Town. Since then he has been engaged nearly all the time in the sale of goods alone and with his father.

As Mr. Clarke is quite a prominent man in business circles, he is entitled to a place in this history. He was born in 1845, and is the only surviving son of W. J. S. Clarke. He was appointed a midshipman at the naval academy in 1861. After remaining nearly two years and spending one summer at sea, he resigned, as we learned, much to the regret of the officers of the naval academy. Returning home he at once entered the service of his father as clerk, being there well drilled, and remaining in that capacity until 1868, when he married an amiable and accomplished young lady, the only daughter of William M. Coster, Esq., one of the most respected and wealthy gentlemen in Somerset county. He is a very popular man, and in point of business sagacity he is said to be equal to any of his name.

In 1866, Levin Atkinson commenced the sale of groceries in connection with the sale of leather, and continued the same for ten years, or until he died, which event took place in 1877.

Mr. Atkinson was quite a prominent man in the community ; was retired in disposition, obliging, and a warm

friend. He was a member of the Methodist Protestant Church, in New Town, for many years, and filled prominent positions as a layman in that church. From the commencement of his connection with the church to his death, he always kept an open house for the preachers of that denomination, and there was nothing too good to provide and no labor too great to perform for those whom he and his devoted wife loved to entertain.

In 1880, Henry Dryden and his son Clarence engaged in the sale of groceries, confectionery, etc., in connection with the sale of tin ware, Mr. H. Dryden having been engaged in selling tin ware previously. This firm continues and will no doubt be successful.

In 1878, James H. Vincent commenced merchandising in Pocomoke City, and is growing in trade and popularity. We have several other stores in Pocomoke City, which may be called green grocery and provision stores, kept respectively by: A. H. Benson, Roland E. Bevans and John W. Selverthorn, John T. M. Sturgis and Thomas Melvin and J. A. D. Robinson.

These are all reliable houses, where the substantial of life may be purchased.

In presenting to the reader this concise history of the mercantile business of New Town, now Pocomoke City, I have aimed at facts, at giving a fair showing, and not throwing more gloss upon the men and trade than they really merited. I shall now close this part of my history by saying: we have, in Pocomoke City, some thirty

business houses of all grades, selling goods, doing an annual business, aggregating over two hundred thousand dollars.

## CHAPTER XI.

## MANUFACTURING.

Manufacture, in the early history of New town, was, as a matter of course, in its infancy. The first, probably, should be mentioned is the manufacture of clothing for the families. These goods consisted of woolen, cotton and linen. The wool was taken from the sheep's back and washed, then picked, carded, spun and woven into fustian, that is to say, the warp was of cotton, the filling in was of wool. Linsey-woolsey was also made for the mothers and daughters.

This word linsey-woolsey comes up in memory as something long since past away.

I used to hear, when I was a little boy, these words sung :

“Linsey-woolsey peticoats,  
Silk and cotton gown,  
Shoes and stockings in your hands,  
And feet upon the ground.”

The cotton was, as a general thing, cultivated at home, that is to say every family had their cotton-patch if they had ground sufficient for that purpose, and when ripe was harvested, the seed picked, then carded, spun and woven. These were for underwear for both sexes, for sheets, and the beautiful white counterpanes that used to be made.



The linen was wade out of flax. Every farmer had his flax patch. The flax when ripe was pulled up by the roots by hand, then placed in a creek, pond or water-hole if their was any convenient, if not, it was spread out on the ground to mildew, when sufficiently cured it was then housed. In the winter time the flax break was heard singing its day-long song, as the busy laborer would be plying the instrument.

In this instrument the woody portion of the flax was separated from the fibrous. Thus the flax was prepared for the hackle, then after that it was spun and woven into what we used to call country made linen, and then made into underwear for both sexes, for toweling, table cloths, sheets, etc. Now the *modus-operandi* in clothing. The carding and spinning would be carried on day and night by the mothers and daughters. At night the father and brothers would unite around a roasting fire with a plenty of pine knots to make a light, and would engage in picking the wool or cotton. During these seasons of night work they would roast sweet potatoes and have a pitcher of cider to cheer the tedious hours of labor.

When the wool, cotton or flax was thus prepared for the loom, they would commence weaving.

When I was a little boy I used to hear the loom going all day long. It did not make as sweet music as the piano, but went click, clack, click, clack, from morning until night.

An anecdote which I have heard going the rounds many years ago may not be out of place here. A lady

of independence in an adjoining community had an only daughter. That daughter was visited by a young lady; who inquired of the mother where Miss So-and-So's piano was. She took the young lady to the loom house and pointing to the loom: "There," said she, is my daughter's piano."

The mother and daughter made the clothes for the family. The young ladies were their own mantua makers and their mothers learned them to be good cooks also. They thought it was no disgrace to learn them to work. The first families of the place would make machanics of their sons, and to show that this custom was considered in the highest sense an honorable one, I need but cite those who were prominent citizens of the town to demonstrate this position.

Michael Murray was a weaver of the world renowned Irish linen in his native country, Ireland; Jesse Henderson a shipcarpenter; Rev. James Tilghman, a shoemaker; Joshua Sturgis, a blacksmith; Capt. Jacob Riggin, a shipcarpenter; Capt. Benjamin Hall, a carpenter; General Ebenezer Hearn, a tanner and currier; Colonel William H. merrill, a hatter, John S. Stevenson, a watch-maker; George S. Redder, a hatter. I might name many others, but those already named are sufficient.

Is not this a suggestive thought to parents of the present day, to give their sons a trade instead of crowding them into professions and clerkships, in which there are but few, comparatively, who succeed, and to learn their

daughters to be good house keepers, and not to bring them up in such a way as that when they get married they will be utterly ignorant how to make their husbands a suit of clothes or how to make and bake a johnny cake.

An incident which occurred in the history of Stephen Girard, the millionaire, of Philadelphia, I will illustrate here. He had a youth who was to live with him until he was of age. This young man, by his steady habits, attention to business and probity of character, had won, over all the other clerks, a place high up in the esteem of Mr. Girard. His twenty-first birthday came on. The day before that, however, he went into Mr. Girard's counting-room and informed him of the fact, when he was told to come in the next day as he wanted to see him. It was conceded by all the clerks that Mr. Girard was going to do something handsome for that young man. The next day came, he went into the office as requested; they entered into conversation upon their connection together. Mr. Girard praised him for his faithfulness to his interests. "And now," said he, "you are going out into the world to seek your fortune, I want to give you a piece of advice. Do you go and learn a trade; there is the barrel coopering, go and learn that!" The reader may imagine how the young man was taken back. He, however, engaged with a barrel cooper to work with him for one year. At the end of the year, he made a barrel, which he took to Mr. Girard's office to show him. Mr. Girard pronounced it a good job, and asked the price of it, which was three

dollars. He took the barrel, paid him the money for it, and requested him to come to the office the next day as he wished to see him. The day came! he went into the office, when Mr. Girard said: "You may have thought it a very strange piece of advice which I gave you, to learn a trade; but, if hereafter, you should fail in any business you engage in, then you have your trade to fall back on. Now, here is a check for \$30,000 as a token of my high esteem and with my best wishes for your success in life."

The different branches of mechanical business which were carried on in New Town in its early history were boot and shoe making, house and shipcarpentering, blacksmithing, coopering, tanning and currying, hatting, etc. There was, generally, but one shop of each branch of business at a time. The first boot and shoemaker that I have any information of was Rev. James Tilghman; Caleb Tilghman, then Samuel Long, Joseph Richards, Thomas Brittingham, James Lambdon, Jesse Long, Josiah Long, of Jesse, Zadok Hall, of John, Edward Murray, Francis Murray, James Sturgis, Tubman Moor, Samuel T. Landing and James Murray. Henry Murray, who was an office bearer in the Methodist Episcopal Church, was also a delegate elect from Worcester county to the General Assembly of Maryland in 1862 and 1863. In 1866 he died suddenly, in hope of a blissful immortality. William H. S. Merrill, Thomas J. Blain, who is also a leading office bearer in the Methodist Episcopal Church, and has four sons—all grown men—who are an honor to

him. John Silverthorn, Rev. George Covington, Charles Covington, Levin Covington, John Richards, Sr., George Matthews, ——— Case, William Matthews and William Clogg. No doubt there are others whose names have escaped my memory, or who were here but a short time. These, excepting the few last names mentioned, have all passed away.

The tailoring business was carried on at an early date. Josiah Long, my wife's father, was a tailor. He served his apprenticeship with his uncle, David Long, Sr., who was the father of Captain Henry Long, Captain John W. Long and David Long. Mr. Long worked at the tailoring business until he died, which event occurred about 1813. Then in succession Benjamin Cottman, a man by the name of Smith, William Purnell, Joseph Benson, John H. Powell, William Atkinson, William Fisher, Theo. Hall, William S. C. Polk, Emerson G. Polk, James Wells, McCayland, Edward Ardis and W. F. Jones. Emerson G. Polk, W. F. Jones and Edward Ardis are the present tailors of the place.

## CHAPTER XII.

### TRADES, &c.

The house and ship-carpentering has been represented by the following named persons : House carpenters were William Beauchamp, William Wheeler, Capt. Benjamin Hall, Henry Beauchamp, Wrixham Burnett, William

McMaster, James Benson, Henry Coston, Jesse L. Long, William H. C. Long, Littleton Duer, Edgar Duer, Francis Duer, Ralph Ross, John Richards, Jun., Thomas Davis, John Merrill, John Bevans, James Broughton, Edward Davis, Edward Merrill, Edward Ross. Shipcarpenters were Jesse Henderson, Jacob Riffin, John Carsley, Peter Carsley, Frank Whittington, E. James Tull, Henry Taptman, Wm. Smith, Samuel Richardson, Silvanus Maddux, James McDaniel, Edward Mills, Thomas Thorington, William H. McDaniel, Jesse Taptman, William Lankford, Alfred Lankford, Christopher Schillinger, William Bonnewell, Alfred Herbert, Alfred Mills, Thomas Jones, John J. Dickinson, Charles Williams, John E. Tull, Joseph L. Hitch, Hargis Hayman, Curtis Tull, James Ford, Thomas Sears, Wm. R. Jones, James Bonnewell, Edward Townsend, Tobe Bonnewell, John Crammer, Albert Henderson, Silas Ellis, William H. Matthews, Harry Whittington, William Cathel, Noah Dutton, Levin Dutton, John J. Deputy, Samuel Gibbons, John O. Fitzgerald, Capt. John Fitzgerald, Jesse Crockett, Charles Crockett, John Foster, Jr., John Foster, Sr., Julius Henderson, Caleb Dickinson, Walter Hughes and Frank Jones.

In connection with ship-carpentering we have the following caulkers: James H. Gardner, Isaac Fisher, Henry Henson, Grant Long, William Sturgis and John Somerfield.

The blacksmith business has been represented by the following named persons: Joshua Sturgis, Ephraim Townsend, Matthias N. Lindsey, George W. Landing, Major T. and Jerome B. Hall, George Hall, William and John

Paradee, Lycurgus Stevenson, Wilmer Mills, Rufus Stevenson, John Foley, the Messrs. Hayman, Isaac Dennis, John G. Angelo, Alexander Harris and William Banks.

As the idea of improvement is one object in this history, I desire to call attention to one name, and that is George W. Landing.

He was raised but a few miles from this place on a farm. At a suitable age he was apprenticed to a man in Berlin, Worcester County, to learn the blacksmith business. After serving his apprenticeship he came to New Town and established himself in business. It was not long before he invented a new plow, this plow was an iron mouldboard and point all made in one piece, when the point wore out he would weld to it another; previous to this the plows had wooden mould boards with an iron point fastened to them. In the invention of this plow, Mr. Landing attained great celebrity as a blacksmith. He worked hard and had a constitution to stand it; made money and took care of it. He, however, became an aspirant for political fame, retired from the blacksmith shop, and was so successful in his aspirations, that he could be elected to the legislature over almost any candidate that might oppose him. In his political career he went by the name of the *Old Blacksmith*. He has, however, retired in a great measure from politics and business life, having possessed himself of considerable property, and is nearing the sixty-fifth year of his age.

The coopering business, in the earlier history of New

Town, was carried on very extensively, it was, however, confined exclusively to making tubs and buckets; there were six pieces, fitting in each other, from the cooler to the wash tub, which was called a nest of ware. Men became so expert in its manufacture, that they have made as high as eight nests a day. The nest of ware, when bound with iron hoops, would sell for one dollar and twenty-five cents; when bound with wooden hoops, for fifty cents. The manufacture of this ware, as late as 1845 became so extensive, that the ware received the appellation of New Town currency.

Since 1845, the business has dwindled so, that to-day, it is becoming obsolete, there being only two or three persons in the place who make a few buckets and do some repairing.

About 1815, Rev. James Tilghman and General Ebenezer Hearn commenced the tanning business, in New Town. After Mr. Tilghman died, which event occurred in 1816, General Hearn carried the business on in his own name, until Gibson Cannon, a relative of his, who had served an apprenticeship with him, became of age, when he took him in as a partner. Mr. Cannon did not, however, continue in the business but a few years before he withdrew on account of feeble health. When another apprentice of General Hearn's, John S. Mills became of age, he then was taken as a partner by General Hearn. This firm continued until Mr. Mills died, which event took place about the year 1844. General Hearn still continued the business, but now, in his own name again, until 1851 or 2,



when he sold out to John W. Quinn. Mr. Quinn conducted the business until 1854 or 55, when he closed out.

In 1861, Levin Atkinson and George Hargis established themselves in the business, which firm continued but a few years, when Mr. Hargis sold out to Mr. Atkinson.

Mr. Atkinson conducted the business until a short time before he died, which event transpired in October, 1877. Since that time the tanning and currying trade, as a separate branch of manufacturing has ceased to be carried on in Pocomoke City. All who have carried on the tanning and currying business in New Town, without an exception, have passed away.

A tribute to the practical mechanics, engaged in the tanning and currying trade, in New Town, is in place just here. General Ebenezer Hearn was born in Sussex County, Delaware, March the 7th, 1792. Mr. Hearn served an apprenticeship in Delaware. After he was of age, he went to Modest Town, Accomac County, Va., and worked journey work for Mr. Lippincott of that place. He did not however, continue long in Modest Town before he came to New Town and engaged, as above stated, in the business with Rev. James Tilghman. Some years after this he married the eldest daughter of Dr. Stevenson. He soon began to be prosperous in his business. In the course of time he purchased a tract of land called Cowley, but more familiarly known as Old Winter Quarter. This tract of land he purchased of Mr. John Stevens, a regular descendant of Col. William Stevens, of colonial fame. As Old Winter Quarter has been a place of

renown, the reader may be anxious to know something more about it. It adjoins Pocomoke City; in fact, the dwelling and principal part of the farm is within the corporation of the town. When General Hearn purchased it, it was a perfect wilderness; was interspersed with branches, sand hills, mud and swamp, where the yew pawns and prickly pears grew, and where it is said, bears were numerous, and old Blue Beard lived. These were terrible scarecrows to the boys when they would go into Winter Quarter yew pawning. Many a farce has been played upon strangers in getting them to dig in the sand hills of Winter Quarter for Blue Beard's money, which, it has been said, that he buried there.

Here Mr. Hearn built his house, which yet remains a fine one. Probably, about this time, he was chosen captain of militia. He now was called Captain Hearn; subsequently he was placed upon the Governor's Staff, as one of his aids, with the title of Colonel, he now was called by that title. and later again he received the title of General, since which time, he was called General Hearn to the day of his death.

General Hearn was a man of pleasure, he was fond of fox hunting and a game of chess; he also became a great politician, of the Whig party, and has been elected to the legislature of Maryland oftener, probably, than any other man in Worcester County, in his day. He was kind and genial, calm and even in his disposition, and never in a hurry, and was very popular. He was independent in his circumstances, and when he died he left a handsome

estate to his children. He died January 13th, 1854, in the 62nd year of his age, honored and respected by all who knew him, and was buried in the family burying ground, in Winter Quarter.

Gibson Cannon was born in Sussex County, in the State of Delaware. During his partnership with General Hearn, he married Miss Elizabeth Sturgis, in 1832. His health, as before stated, was so feeble as to compel a change; consequently he went to merchandising at Cottingham's Ferry; here he continued for three or four years, when in 1839, July the 3rd, he died, being, at the time of his death, in the 34th year of his age. He was buried in the Protestant Episcopal Church burying ground, of Pocomoke City. Mr. Cannon left a widow and two children, who are still living; his widow and daughter are living in this place; his son, Clayton, is living in the City of Baltimore.

As Mr. Cannon is a native of this place, it gives me pleasure to state that he is an enterprising business man of the monumental city. At the age of fifteen years he entered the store of Colonel William H. Merrill as clerk and continued one year, then he went to Baltimore and engaged with Gibson & Co., auctioners, at the age of sixteen, here he continued one year. At the age of seventeen, he entered the wholesale dry goods house of Lewis, Drost & Co. How long he continued in this situation I cannot say, but from there he entered a savings bank, then in the course of time, he procured a situation in one

of the National Banks of the City, then again, he accepted a situation as cashier, in a bank in Annapolis. From there he returned to Baltimore and entered the Trader's National Bank as cashier, which situation he still holds. Clayton Cannon had to make his own mark. I need not tell the reader how well he has done it. He now ranks well with the banking business men of Baltimore, with an unspotted character, at the age of forty-six years.

After Gibson Cannon retired from the tanning and currying business, General Hearn took John S. Mills, who had just finished his apprenticeship, as a partner in the business. Mr. Mills continued in this firm until he died. He died quite a young man, and left a widow, and one child by his first wife: that child is the Rev. Joseph L. Mills, D. D., of the Methodist Protestant Church.

## CHAPTER XIII.

### TRADES, &c.

The Hatting business held a very important place in manufacture. Hats, at an early day, were made of all the various grades of fur, from the rabbit to the beaver. The first hatter, of whom we have any information, carrying on the business in New Town, was John Hall, after he died, then Andrew Gilchrist, then in succession, James Hall carried on until he died. These all died young men. Andrew Gilchrist was a scotchman and was full of playful fun.

About 1827, Colonel William H. Merrill commenced manufacturing hats, he carried on extensively.

After Colonel Merrill retired from the business then Francis Mezick engaged in it, and took as a partner, Carey C. Sears, they introduced the manufacture of the silk hat in New Town; after continuing together some-time they dissolved partnership and each one carried the business on separately.

I should have stated that during the time of Colonel Merrill's being engaged in the hatting business, George S. Redden also carried it on in New Town. After Mezick & Sears retired, then Henry Brewington engaged in it for some time. Since he ceased to carry the business on, it has become extinct in New Town, now Pocomoke City.

The carriage-making business was carried on in New Town at an early date, though in a small way. Milby Cottingham was the first of whom we have any knowledge to engage in it. He made some few carriages, but his work was mostly repairing. I remember a little coach which he made, after the regular style of coaches, for his little child, and to this day, taking into consideration the then surrounding associations of my little boyhood life, it is in my memory still, one of the prettiest little carriages that I ever saw.

How long Mr. Cottingham carried the business on I cannot say. After he moved away there was no carriage-maker in New Town, until Rev. Wm. Quinn established it in 1836. He did not, however, follow it long before he he sold out to Meridith & Spearman, who continued it

but a short time; then Jesse Hopkins followed it in succession, then Hughes & Redden; afterwards they dissolved, and since then they carry on the business separately; William E. Crisp and Thomas Evans, then Broughton & Cliff were also engaged in the business; then J. Thaddeus Toadvine manufactured extensively, then followed Tatum, Gordy and Lankford. We now have three carriage factories in Pocomoke City and one carriage bazaar, kept by William T. Bullen.

The watch and clock repairing business was not followed by any one in New Town until about 1865, when a Frenchman, by the name of Montandon, came to New Town and commenced to follow it, and remained here two or three years. He was followed by a German by the name of Harr, who carried on the business for about two years. Mr. Harr was followed by Mr. Geo. Sartorius. We now have Mr. William Sartorius as the representative of this branch of mechanical trade, established in Pocomoke City, who may always be found at his place of business.

The cabinet, wheelwright and undertaking business has been followed in New Town from time immemorial, though not so extensively carried on in the early history of the place. The cabinet business embraced the making of bedsteads, tables, chairs, corner cupboards, cloak cases, etc. The wheelwright business comprised the wagon and cart wheel, together with the spinning wheel manufacture.

The spinning wheel occupied as useful a place in the

family in its day as the sewing machine does now. Coffin making has always been in vogue. Coffins, in the early history of New Town were generally made of pine boards, painted black and not lined. When the undertaker attended a burial, if the corpse was to be carried any distance, it was placed on the running gear of a carriage or in a cart and carried to the place of interment; but if the distance was short, it was carried by hand. Before the corpse was put in the coffin a linen sheet was placed in it, and then the corpse was laid on the sheet in the coffin and wrapped up. The lid of the coffin was always flat. When at the grave the coffin would be placed on chairs during the preliminaries for burial. There were no cases then. The coffin was put down in the ground and boards laid over it and then covered up, and generally a stone was put at the head and foot of the grave. Burials were not so expensive in the early history of New Town as at the present day. The coffins cost about \$5. The shroud was simply a slip made of muslin. This old mode of burial with the winding sheet brings to mind the songs of warning that used to be sung in revival meetings:

Young people, all attention give,  
While I address you in God's name;  
You, who in sin and folly live,  
Come hear the counsel of a friend.  
Your sparkling eyes and blooming cheeks  
Shall wither like the morning rose;  
The coffin, grave and winding sheet  
Will soon your active limbs enclose.

About 1825, James T. Dickinson moved to New Town and commenced the cabinet, wheelwright and undertaker's business. He made quite an improvement in the whole line of coffins and burial of the dead. Gum and walnut took the place of pine coffins. They were padded and beautifully lined. The coffins at first were carried by ropes; he introduced handles, such as are used at the present day, then the bier, case to the coffin, and hearse. Perhaps a brief sketch of Mr. Dickinson's life will be interesting to the reader. He was born in 1803 near New Town. His parents were James and Nancy Dickinson, both worthy members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in New Town until their death. Mr. Dickinson was apprenticed to Handy Mills to learn the aforesaid business. After he became of age he married Miss Nancy Burnett, daughter of James Burnett, Sr., and moved to New Town, where he spent the remainder of his days. He was thrice married, and was the father of five sons by his first wife and one daughter by his second wife, only two of whom survive him. By industry and economy he provided amply for his family and the education of his children, and at the same time accumulated considerable property. He was a man of strict integrity and of a kind and genial nature. He was modest and retired and never sought preferment, and was esteemed and respected by the entire community. He was a member and ruling Elder in the Presbyterian Church, and was often selected to represent her in the church courts. He died in 1866,



aged 63 years. His remains rests in the Presbyterian Cemetery of Pocomoke City. Mr. Dickinson attained to this distinction by adhering strictly to the secret of success, which is : he attended to his own business and did not meddle with the business of others. "A good name is to be preferred before great riches."

The cabinet and undertakers business is at present carried on by Jacob E. James, G. and Francis A. Stevenson, three brothers, doing business under the firm of Stevenson Bros. They are also, in connection with their trade, engaged in the Furniture and Sewing Machine business.

The Wheelwright business is carried on at present, by Abraham Cranmer and S. W. Farlow.

The Baking business was carried on quite extensively in the early history of New Town. Mrs. Margaret Young whom we called Aunt Peggy, and an old colored woman, whom we called Aunt Mareer, were the cake bakers in New Town sixty-five years ago.

After Aunt Peggy died, her daughter Sally Evans carried on the business. Old Aunt Mareer and Aunt Sally seemed to vie with each other in baking cakes, and I doubt whether nicer cakes, in their line, were ever baked. About 1825, Aunt Sally, for so she used to be called, got married to Agur Lewis Jones. During that or the next year they purchased the hotel property, belonging to Captain John Merchant, and commenced Hotel Keeping. From that day it went by the name of the Sally Jones' Hotel. They kept a good table at moderate charges. Aunt Sally had a reputation of renown, as the great cake

baker, both in Somerset and Worcester Counties, Md., and in Accomac County, Va. She and Lewis kept their horse and wagon, and would attend all the General Musters in the counties aforesaid, well loaded with superior cakes of different kinds, and would also attend the camp-meetings, elections, vendues, holiday festivals, etc. They would return home, not so heavily laden with cakes, yet with their equivalent in hard cash. Aunt Sally and Lewis became wealthy, but no one knew it. She survived her husband several years. After his death she was so afraid of being robbed that she would borrow money to pay her taxes. She died without children, and left her property to her many relatives; and to the Protestant Episcopal, Methodist Episcopal and Protestant Methodist Churches. She left a large share of it to Miss Rosa Young, for she helped to make it. After Miss Rosa came in possession of the property, she got married to Peter Corbin. She is now a widow, and lives in the neighborhood of Davis's cross roads, at the advanced age of ninety years. When Sally Jones died, she left Moses Stevenson her executor. Upon making an inventory of her property, it was discovered that she had, in hard cash, \$6,000. She was buried in the Protestant Episcopal Church Burying Ground, in this place, at the probable age of eighty years. The Baking Business has been carried on quite extensively during late years; being unable to ascertain the dates I can only name the persons who have been engaged in carrying on a bakery. The first was John Knapp, then

William S. Matthews and a man by the name of Marimon, then a man by the name of Hopkins, then Philip and Frank Fletcher, who were followed by F. H. Dryden and John J. Jones, who employed a man by the name of Dietz, then Stephen J. Blades. The business is carried on at present by Mrs. K. Stubbins and Mrs. P. Whittington, in connection with the sale of confectionery. The manufacture of brick in New Town was first introduced by John W. Quinn several years ago. It is now carried on in connection with the lime kiln business by Messrs. H. A. DeKay and W. J. S. Clarke, under the name of DeKay & Co., doing an annual business aggregating \$8,000.

There is one more feature of manufacturing which I wish to mention as commanding probably the first place in magnitude, that is the manufacture of phosphate for manure. This business has been carried on by Messrs. Freeman, Lloyd, Mason and Dryden, who have now established a factory near the City of Norfolk, Va. These gentlemen are all business men—men of push—and have a reputation to back them up in their heavy business, and must succeed.

In summing up the manufacturing business of Pocomoke City, I will say that we have six or seven boot and shoe shops, three tailor shops, seven or eight house-carpenter shops, ten blacksmith shops, three carriage shops, and one carriage bazaar, two cooper shops, one undertaker shop and one phosphate factory, all aggregating a business annually of probably \$170,000.

## CHAPTER XIV.

## SHIPPING INTERESTS.

The shipping trade was quite an extensive business in the early history of New Town, though it was mostly on the coast and to the West Indies. There were as many vessels then, probably, as there are now sailing from New Town, but of a different character. They were generally of smaller capacity, were sharp built, holding a draft of seven or eight feet of water, and were commanded by captain and mate, and a regular crew before the mast.

These vessels would carry white oak, barrel and hog-head staves to the West Indies, which were sold for remunerative prices, and on their homeward voyage would bring molasses, sugar, coffee, West India rum, tropical fruits and hard cash.

The Bay trade consisted of pine plank, sawed by hand with the whipsaw, staves and laths which were riven, cypress shingles, coopers' ware and what corn could be spared from home consumption, flaxseed, dried fruit, feathers, rags, etc.

We have now eight large vessels sailing from Pocomoke City which are engaged exclusively in the bay trade. One and sometimes two steamboats plying between here and

the city and the railroad running daily to all parts north, by which facilities we have daily access to all the cities, doing an annual shipping business aggregating probably the round sum of \$500,000. It will, no doubt, be of interest to the reader to see the names of those who were probably their fathers and brothers, and who chose the life of a sailor, recorded here.

I record from memory the following names of those who were captains sailing from this place from 1820 to 1882 inclusive: Captains John W. Long, Fleet Shelton, Harry Long, John Sturgis, James Riggin, Hezekiah Dorman, Jacob Riggin, Parker Copes, Harry Burch, Herod Scott, William H. Veasey, Samuel Fields, Steven Purnell, York Baily, James H. Young, Thomas N. Williams, Robert Henry, Isaac N. Veasey, William F. Veasey, Littleton N. B. Long, Elijah Taylor, L. Thomas Williams, James T. Young, John H. Clark, Thomas J. Veasey, Thomas Brittingham and George Bailey, and no doubt there were others whose names have escaped my memory. Some of these were regular Tars, while others were engaged in the bay trade. As I have already given a sketch of the history of several of those I have named, there is one other man, a sketch of whose history I desire to record, and that is Captain Littleton N. B. Long who, when but a boy, left his father's house, and this his native place, and went to the City of Baltimore, and from there he engaged in a seafaring life. Friendless and penniless, with nothing to depend on but his native talent and energy with which to

make his mark. The sequel shows how well he did it. Whether he engaged as cabin boy or not on board the ship or brig I am not able to say, but one thing I can say, he had a bright intellect and was ambitious to make a man of himself. Obedient and industrious, he soon won the sympathy and favor of the officers, and as circumstances would permit, with their instructions, he studied navigation.

While a young man he took command of a ship ; in a short time after this he became owner or part owner of a ship and continued in this relation for several years. He finally retired from a seafaring life and purchased a farm in Talbot County, Md., where he is living in independence and comfort, at the probable age of 55 years.

All honor to the New Town boys who thus make men of themselves.

## CHAPTER XV.

### EASTERN SHORE STEAMBOAT CO.

The Eastern Shore Steamboat Company of Baltimore being a very important factor in the commercial life of Pocomoke City, it is but simple justice that a record of its doings should have a prominent place in this History:

The Eastern Shore Steamboat Company of Baltimore was incorporated September 16, 1869. The incorporators were Samuel Harlan, Jr., John T. Gause and Nathaniel R. Benson, of Wilmington, Del., Philip R. Clark, of

Baltimore, George R. Dennis and John W. Crisfield, of Somerset County, Md., and W. J. S. Clarke, of Worcester County, Md.

The capital stock of the Company at its organization amounted to \$160,000, with two steamers. At the present period, 1882, the company owns three steamers, which are running to the Eastern Shore, so that daily communication from the peninsula is had by one or other of its steamers with the City of Baltimore. The Company has now in course of building a much larger steamer, which is to be named the Eastern Shore.

The Officers of the Company are : Samuel Harlan, Jr., President ; J. T. Gause, Vice-President ; N. R. Benson, J. Upshur Dennis, John W. Crisfield, W. J. S. Clarke and P. R. Clark, Directors ; W. Thomson, Superintendent ; P. R. Clark, General Agent.

The names of the Steamers are, respectively : Steamer Tangier, Captain S. H. Wilson ; Steamer Helen, Captain L. J. Smith ; Steamer Maggie, Captain George A. Raynor.

These steamers are superseding, in a great measure, the sail vessels in carrying the produce of the Eastern Shore to Baltimore. While they have first-class accommodation for passengers in their saloons, state-rooms and cabins, and the viands upon their tables are selected from the best city markets.

The writer having traveled on all of these steamers can say that the officers are polite and obliging, and passengers may be sure of being treated as ladies and gentlemen.

Our youthful readers cannot realize the advantages of steamboat travel to the same extent that some of us can, whose memory goes back to the time when there was no steamboat plying between Pocomoke City and Baltimore, and when it would require, at certain seasons of the year, two weeks or more for a sail vessel to make a trip from Pocomoke City to Baltimore and return.

Whereas with the present facilities of travel the trip can be made in thirty-nine hours, and gives you eleven hours of that time to attend to business in the city. With these facts before us we can see clearly that progress is marching onward.



## CHAPTER XVI.

## SHIP BUILDING, &amp;c.

The shipbuilding, steam milling and marine railway business is carried on quite extensively in Pocomoke City. Shipbuilding has been carried on in New Town from time immemorial, but the steam milling and marine railway business is of more recent date.

The first steam mill ever erected in New Town was by a man by the name of Hutchinson in 1839. This mill was employed at first to make shingles, but afterwards turned into a saw mill.

It was severally owned by Hutchinson, Dr. Geo. S. D. Shipley, Ricaud, then E. S. Young and Geo. Blades, under the firm of Young & Blades, then E. S. Young and James H. Young, under the firm of Young & Brother, then Capt. James T. Young by himself, who carried on the business until 1866, when he sold out to Polk & Powell. They conducted the business about ten years, when they sold out to James T. Young and Lewis W. Young, doing business under the firm of Young & Brother. Finally James T. Young bought out his brother Lewis, and is now conducting the business by himself.

I have been thus explicit in running out the history

of th's mill simply because it was the first ever established in New Town.

But the year 1844 was marked as the beginning of a series of successes unprecedented in the history of New Town. The circumstances which brought them about were as follows: During that year Ezra B. Risley happened to be in a certain port in the State of New Jersey, when a vessel loaded with cypress fenceraills arrived. He saw the rails and enquired where they were from, etc. The cargo of rails belonged to Jas. Daugherty and Levin P. Bowland. In this case, like thousands of others, the door of wealth was opened by the merest accident, and the old adge holds good, "one sows and another reaps." In as short a time as possible after this two strangers were seen in New Town; no one knew who they were or what was their business. They prospected awhile in the cypress swamps, made some purchases and went away. The strangers proved to be John Ashcraft and Ezra B. Risley. During the next year, 1845, they established a large steam saw mill at Harry Henderson's landing, the place now owned by Littleton Waters. Here they commenced operations. They brought down Jersey wood choppers and employed our own men also. Like an electric shock, they aroused the citizens of New Town and the entire surrounding country to the idea of business which has never died out. They infused a spirit of industry and enterprise in all, from the day laborer to the merchant behind the counter and the farmer at the plow. They

raised the price of labor, paid their employees the money for their work, and produced an entire revolution in business life.

They engaged in ship building also, and built some large sea vessels. They purchased all the cypress swamps below New Town, and sent to market all their timber and lumber in their own vessels, which they built. They operated about twenty years, made about \$150,000 and retired.

With them originated, in a great measure, if not entirely, the practical idea of the steam mill business in this section of country.

In 1854, John W. Quinn, Jas. Murray and John Ashcraft established a steam saw mill in New Town. In 1855, Murray sold out his interest in the mill to Nicholas N. Bosley; the mill now being run by the firm of Quinn, Bosley and Ashcraft. This firm continued two years, when they sold out to Thomas W. Hargis and Ambrose Dixon, doing business under the firm of Hargis & Dixon. They continued two years and then sold out to Captain H. H. Husted. Captain Husted conducted the business three years, when in 1862 he sold out to Captain James H. Young; Captain Young, having already a fine mill, bought this mill of Captain Husted to get it out of his way.

As history is always repeating itself I wish to present to the reader a case illustrative of the fact, in which we have an example of one, who, from the poorest walks of life has attained, by hard work and good management to the position of wealth and independence.

I allude to Captain James H. Young, who, I am sure will not take exceptions to this statement, for he takes a pride in the knowledge of the fact that he has made his mark in the world. While he seems to say to the youth of the present day, by his independent step as he walks the streets ; boys go work as I have done and take care of your labor, and when you get old you will have something to lean upon.

Captain Young's father died quite a young man, and left a widow and three children to support themselves as best they could. It is true they had a little home but it was merely a staying place.

The mother and elder son Edward would work at anything they could get to do. She at the spinning wheel, hoeing corn, and sometimes in the fodder field saving fodder at twenty-five cents per day, and he tending the gardens in town and working on the farms for twelve and a half cents per day.

After a while James grew old enough to work, also, and would work, sometimes, for five cents per day. At the age of sixteen he was put to the tailoring business ; he continued at the trade two years, when his future prospects seemed to be beclouded, and as sitting on the board did not agree with him, he concluded to make a change. At the age of eighteen, he engaged with Captain James Riggan as cook on board a small vessel, similar to that of a ship's long boat, at four dollars per month.

This was the day of small things, but it was the beginning of a successful course of life. At this period he was

very destitute of clothing ; he had saved, however, as he thought, three months wages with which he intended to clothe himself. When lo ! the tailor with whom he had been living, had by some means collected his wages, and he was still left destitute. This was a terrible blow to the little fellow, for he was very small for his age. however he continued persevering and became a hand before the mast, in the bay and coasting trade. Some time after his maturity, by his industrious habits and temperate course of life, he won the respect and sympathy of John U. Dennis, who one day told Captain Young that he ought to buy a vessel or part of one. Captain replied that he was not able. Mr. Dennis told him that he would make him able, he would lend him the money, and did so. Capt. Young then joined Thomas W. Hargis in the purchase of a schooner. Mr. Hargis at that time was keeping store at Wagram, Accomac County, Va. How long this partnership lasted I cannot tell, but after their dissolution he joined Col. Wm. H. Merrill in a schooner called the Sarah Ellen. Finally he bought out Col. Merrill and run the vessel in his own name until 1854, when he engaged in the steam mill business.

Although Capt. Young had made up to this time \$8,000 or \$10,000, yet here was the gold mine which he struck. The first few years of his milling life, however, were not so successful, but after the war commenced the tide of success set in, and money poured in upon him like a flood.

In 1866, after making money enough to satisfy his ambition, he sold out to Polk & Powell, as before stated, and retired.

In making a few desultory remarks relating to Capt. Young, I will say he has been a great worker and has had a constitution to stand it. He has been unyielding in his perseverance until the prize was gained.

There is one feature of his business life which is specially worthy of record, and that was, Captain Young never did business on the Sabbath day. This is worthy of all praise and should be an example to other business men to act likewise. He owns ten farms aggregating two thousand acres of land, which cost him between forty and fifty thousand dollars, he also owns about twenty houses and lots, some of them valuable ones, besides his private securities and other personal property.

Captain Young has been a member of the Methodist Protestant Church, in Pocomoke City, for many years, has been twice married; has eight children living, four by each wife. He is now living in a green old age at about three score and ten years, and looks back upon his life-work as master of the situation.

In 1869, Levin J. M. P. Broadwater and Thomas R. P. S. White established a steam saw mill, in New Town, and run it until 1869, when it was purchased by James T. Young, and he run it until 1876, when he sold it to W. J. S. Clarke, and it was moved to Nashville, Accomac County, Virginia.

In 1864, W. J. S. Clarke and John H. Clarke, his brother,

established a Marine railway, and in 1869 they built a steam saw, planing and grist mill, in New Town. They also commenced ship building and repairing at the same time.

In 1869, Hall, Bro. & Co. commenced the steam saw mill business. In 1873, they built their Marine railway and carry on ship building, also, in connection with these two branches of business.

James T. Young, as has already been stated, is carrying on the steam mill business. Is running a steam saw, planing and grist mill, and carries on ship building in connection.

Clarke & Co. and Hall, Bro. & Co. have three steam saw mills in the country, but the business of those mills centers here, so that I associate them with the steam mill business of Pocomoke City.

In 1865, Thomas F. Stevenson commenced the business of steam milling in New Town. In 1866 he took as a partner his son, Riley M. Stevenson; the firm is now doing business under the firm of Thomas F. & R. M. Stevenson. Theirs is a flour, grist and planing mill. It will afford any one pleasure to go into their establishment and witness the mechanical skill and neatness that characterizes every department. The father and grandfather of this firm is with them and works daily at the age of between 80 and 90 years. They are all natural mechanics and merit the praise that is accorded to them for the exhibition of such a talent.

In 1872, James T. Hearn, Allison Fleming and Charles

G. Dale established a steam flour and grist mill in this place. How long they continued I am not able to say. They, however, sold out to H. H. Dashiell, of Princess Ann, Somerset County, Md. The mill is still owned by Mr. Dashiell, but it is rented by R. T. Dixon, who is a live man, and is doing a heavy business in the manufacture of flour and meal.

In summing up the steam saw, planing and grist mill business, together with the marine railway and shipbuilding business of Pocomoke City, we now have seven steam mills, including those in the country whose business is identical with the business of Pocomoke City. Five are saw mills, two of which have planing and grist mills attached; two are flour and grist mills, one of which has a planing mill attached. There are three shipyards and two marine railways. They employ in the aggregate 160 hands annually, and do an annual aggregated business of \$166,000.

Before concluding this part of the history of New Town, now Pocomoke City, I would do injustice not to mention the case of Captain John H. Clarke, who is equally deserving of a liberal notice in this history.

He was born in 1828 and lived with his father until 1846, at which period his father died. He was then 18 years of age. He farmed for two years and then engaged as hand on board of Captain Elijah Taylor's vessel, which engagement lasted two or three years, during which time he married Captain Taylor's oldest daughter.

After this he engaged in partnership with his brother,



W. J. S. Clarke, in the vessel business, and they owned several vessels together. This firm continued, when they entered into the steam mill, Marine railway and ship building business, finally ending in their large transactions. He has served one term, and is at present on his second, as commissioner of the county, with great acceptability.

Above all he is recognized as a good and honest man. He owns ten or twelve hundred acres of land, eight or ten houses and lots.

Captain Clarke has been an acceptable member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in Pocomoke City, for many years, has been twice married; has eight children, five by his first wife and three by his second. He is now fifty-two or three years of age, in the prime of his strong manhood, with the prospects of the future looming up brightly before him. His oldest son, William E. Clarke, is a wholesale drygoods merchant in the City of Baltimore, and as he is a native of this place, and as it was here that he received his first business ideas, it is but right and proper that his history should be known. He was born on the 20th day of March, 1851. After receiving such an education as he was able to get here, he was taken at the age of 12 years into the store of his uncle, W. J. S. Clarke, where he remained three or four years, during which time he was thoroughly drilled by his sagacious uncle, whose business ability is proverbial.

At the age of 15 or 16 years his uncle, seeing he had great business qualifications beginning to develop themselves, took him to Baltimore and placed him with that

popular and well-known house, Hurst, Purnell & Co., where he arose step by step from office boy to book-keeper, and has been for several years a partner in that gigantic establishment.

Mr. Clarke is quite popular, and as a recognition of that fact, a new steamboat, which was built by Hall, Bro. & Co. and Clarke & Co., which cost \$25,000, which has just made its first trip and which will ply between this place and the various tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay, has been named after him. William E. Clarke is recognized by all as one of the leading business men of the Monumental City. He is 31 years of age, is scarcely in the prime of life, with success and emolument knocking at his door.

## CHAPTER XVII.

## HOTELS. LIVERY STABLES, &amp;c.

Hotels existed in New Town at an early date in its history, the first, however, which I have any information of was kept by Josiah Long, my wife's father. How long he was engaged in the business I cannot say. He died in 1813. About the same time, or shortly after Josiah Long commenced the business, Bennett H. Clarvoe engaged in it also. After Mr. Clarvoe died, the widows of Mr. Long and Mr. Clarvoe carried the business on for some time and then retired ; and in succession the following persons kept hotel, in New Town, now Pocomoke City, until the present time, 1882 : Captain John Merchant, Littleton Cottingham, Sally Jones, Francis Mezick, Thomas Evans, Edward F. Mezick, Robert Silverthorn, Joseph Lankford, Henry Dryden, John Allen, Rosa Young, Peter Corbin, Robert Marshall, John Adair, L. J. M. P. Broadwater, Ralph Ross, Littleton Sturgis, Charles Rider, W. J. S. Clarke, William W. Quinn, Titus I. West, Captain Wm. H. Comegys, George Twilly, Levin P. Bowland and H. C. Powell. Mr. Powell is the proprietor of the Clarke House, and is a popular hotel keeper. Report says he keeps the best table of any house on the shore.

The Livery Stable business has been connected with the Hotel business from time immemorial, until 1869, when the Messrs. William and Samuel Twilly commenced it as a separate business. As the Messrs. Twilly are the pioneers in this business, it is but right that an extended remark should be made concerning them here. These gentlemen, having had long experience in the livery stable business, have become experts, and are widely known as reliable men, and are very popular. It is a real pleasure to see the fine teams and splendid carriages which go out from their stables. It is thought they can challenge the whole Eastern Shore, if not the State, for a successful rival in their line.

In 1878 and 1879, Emerson Melvin kept a livery stable, in Pocomoke City, and in 1880 and 1881, John J. Jones was engaged in the business; both of these establishments, however, continued but a short time.

In 1881, Edwin F. Causey and Herbert H. King established a livery stable, in Pocomoke City, and continue the same to the present. These gentlemen are polite and accommodating; they keep constantly on hand a supply of horses and carriages, and no one need fear disappointment in getting a good team at their stable.

We now have two livery stables in Pocomoke City, kept by the Messrs. Twilly and Causey & King. These two stables keep constantly on hand about twenty horses and fifteen carriages, and can scarcely supply the the demand at that.

## CHAPTER XVIII.

## PHYSICIANS.

Of the physicians of New Town (now Pocomoke City), Dr. John Stevenson was the first that we have any knowledge of. He settled in New Town about the year 1800, and practiced medicine until he died, which event occurred in 1826. He was buried in the family burying ground on the farm, which now belongs to Thomas W. Hargis, he being at the time of his death 50 years of age. Dr. Stevenson had no competition in the practice of medicine until a few years before his death, consequently he had a large practice and made money. He had a genial spirit, was very popular both as a physician and citizen, and was highly cultured. He was a member of the Pitts Creek Presbyterian Church, and as has already been intimated, became independent, and when he died he left a fine estate to his widow and children.

Dr. Morrison settled here for a short time and practiced medicine. Dr. Johnson also practiced medicine in New Town for a short time and then moved to Salisbury, where he died. The first name of these two gentlemen I have forgotten; they practiced in New Town in the latter part of Dr. Stevenson's life.

Dr. John B. H. W. Clarvoe commenced the practice of medicine in New Town in the latter part of Dr. Stevenson's life. He built up an extensive practice; he was sociable, intelligent and one of the most popular physicians and citizens. The tidy little Doctor's image is before me in my memory while I write. Seated upon his Teaboy or Catahulean—for these were the names of his horses—having his saddlebags with him, he would ride away to visit his patients. The Doctor was a cousin to Bennett H. Clarvoe, and consequently a relative of the celebrated and well-known detective John Clarvoe, of Washington City, who has recently deceased. The Doctor died comparatively a young man, and left a widow and three children, all of whom have since passed away,

Dr. James B. Horsey settled in New Town in the practice of medicine a while after Dr. Stevenson's death. He married the Doctor's youngest daughter, Elizabeth, and occupied the homestead while he lived. He died in 1838, aged 30 years. Dr. Horsey was a native of Snow Hill. His father died when he was quite small. The independent and generous-hearted David Hopkins, of Snow Hill, who was a bachelor, took a liking to the sprightly lad and assumed his education. He gave him a thorough college course all at his own expense. After the doctor's graduation Mr. Hopkins gave him a physician's outfit, consisting of horse, carriage, etc. Dr. Horsey had a bright intellect, was a good physician, and a ready off-handed speaker when the occasion called him out.

Dr. George S. D. Shipley commenced the practice of medicine, in New Town, in 1839, and continued here ten or eleven years. He then moved to Salisbury and in a few years he died. He was a good physician and a gentleman in the best sense of the word.

Dr. Collyer was associated with Dr. Shipley in the practice of medicine in New Town, he afterwards moved to Accomac County, Va., where he soon died. Dr. Joseph L. Adreon commenced the practice of medicine in New Town, in 1839. He was a good physician, practiced about 20 years, and in 1860 he died.

Dr. Adreon left an amiable widow and a fine family of children. In 1846 Dr. John L. Hearn commenced the practice of medicine in New Town, and continued the same until 1872, during which year he died, embracing a period of 26 years. Dr. Hearn was a native of New Town, he was born the 19th day of March, 1823. When in 1847 he received the hand of Miss Sallie E. Atkinson in marriage, a young lady every way worthy of him. Dr. Hearn had a bright intellect, beyond the common order of minds. He was a good physician and was very popular both as a physician and citizen. His popularity in the old Whig party was so great that when there was a probability of a hard struggle between them and the Democratic party, he would be selected as the most available candidate to carry the election for the Whig party. He left a widow and four children that are an honor to his name and who possess minds of an intellectual order.

Dr. John T. B. McMaster, physician and surgeon, was

born in Worcester County, Md. near New Town, now Pocomoke City, on the 18th day of December, 1827. His parents were Samuel and Ann Baily (Merrill) McMaster. His mother was the daughter of William Merrill and grand daughter of Col. Clement Parker of Accomac County, Va. The McMaster family descended from the old Scotch Covenanters. They emigrated to America soon after the restoration of Charles II. and settled near Carlisle, Penn. His grand father was a Presbyterian Minister. In his boyhood Dr. McMaster attended the country schools of the period, and was well drilled in the English branches and mastered the elementary classes. He possessed a quick and active mind and learned with great readiness.

Soon after leaving school he engaged in mercantile pursuits, but finding them unsuited to his tastes, he commenced in 1848 the study of medicine with G. S. D. Shipley, of New Town. The following year he matriculated at the University of Maryland, where he attended two full courses of lectures, and graduated in the spring of 1850. He at once commenced the practice of his profession in New Town in partnership with Dr. John L. Hearn, and soon succeeded in building up a large and lucrative practice. The partnership was dissolved in 1857, since which time Dr. McMaster has continued alone in the same place, growing constantly in favor as a practitioner and citizen. Several young men trained by him for the profession are now practicing in the county.



In 1862, he was appointed by President Lincoln Brigade Surgeon of Volunteers, but on account of the death of the oldest physician in the town, too many duties devolved upon him at home and he did not go into the army, but was employed during most of the war as contract physician, with headquarters at New Town. In 1862 he was appointed examining surgeon for the first draft of militia called for by President Lincoln, which duty he fulfilled to the general satisfaction of the people of the county. In 1864 he was elected to the Senate of Maryland for two sessions, and taking an active and leading part in the debates, became an influential member of that body. In 1866 he was appointed post master for New Town for 2 years. In 1868 he was appointed inspector and gauger of liquors and inspector of snuff and cigars, but only held these positions for a short time. The General Assembly of Maryland, through his efforts, granted a charter for New Town, and in 1867 he was elected town commissioner, which position he held for two years to the entire satisfaction of the community. During this period he was mainly instrumental in having the town well lighted, the streets widened and many other things accomplished that have greatly improved the place. In 1868 he was appointed by President Johnson Assistant Assessor of Internal Revenue, which position he held for nearly two years. In 1869 a charter was obtained to construct a railroad from King's Creek to New Town, and Dr. McMaster was elected president of the company. Through his active exertions the road was soon completed and in running order. In

1865 he procured a charter for a company to build a bridge across the Pocomoke River. He subscribed to the stock, organized the company, and within the year the bridge was built, taking the place of the ferryboat which had done service for nearly two hundred years. On May 15, 1851, Dr. McMaster was united in marriage with Elizabeth Grace, daughter of Jno. S. Stevenson, a well-known citizen of New Town. They have had seven children, five of whom are still living. The eldest son, John S., is preparing to enter the legal profession. In his religious views Dr. McMaster prefers the forms and practices of the Presbyterian Church, both as a matter of choice and of respect for the opinions of his forefathers. He is one of the leading physicians of the State. He has rendered large public services and is regarded as one of the most spirited citizens of Maryland. He is now in the meridian of his manhood, possessing more than an ordinary degree of brilliancy of intellect, and is always ready to take the lead in every public good.

Dr. Alexander Powell practiced medicine in New Town in 1831. What time he commenced practicing and how long he continued I am not prepared to say, he, however, went to the South, settled there, and has since died. Dr. Edward White practiced medicine in New Town in 1845, he did not, however, continue long before he moved to the City of Baltimore where he is still engaged in the practice of his profession. Dr. Henry J. P. Dickinson was born near New Town, Maryland, on the twenty-sixth day of

September, 1826. His parents were James T. and Nancy Dickinson; he was raised and educated in New Town, studied medicine under Dr. Joseph L. Adreon, and graduated at the University of Maryland, in 1850. He commenced practicing medicine at Barren Creek Springs, Somerset County, (now Wicomico,) Md. In 1852, he was united in marriage with Miss E. A. Waller, of that county, who died in a year or two after her marriage leaving one son in his infancy. After the death of his wife, Dr. Dickinson moved to New Town and commenced the practice of medicine; in a few years he married Miss Emma F. Lambdon, of Worcester County, after which he moved to the country, on his farm, and there continued the practice of medicine until he died, which event occurred in 1865. He left four children, one by his first wife and three by his last, one of whom has since died. Granville E. Dickinson, his oldest son, studied medicine and graduated at the University of Maryland, in 1874, at the age of twenty-one years, and commenced the practice of medicine in Fairmount, Somerset County, Maryland, where he still continues.

Dr. David J. O. Truitt was born in New Town, Md., on the fifth day of November, 1836. His father, after being engaged in the mercantile business, in New Town, for several years, moved to the City of Baltimore, where the Doctor was educated at the Newton University, after graduating at that institution, he studied medicine, attended two full courses of lectures and graduated at the University of Maryland in 1857, at the age of twenty-one years. He

then, excepting two intervals in which he practiced in the Southern Dispensary of Baltimore and Nasswadduso, Worcester County, Maryland, settled in New Town, and has remained here ever since. Dr. Truitt is a good physician, and is considered one of the best surgeons on the Eastern Shore, and is a worthy and useful citizen. He has been thrice married and has three children.

## CHAPTER XIX.

## PHYSICIANS (CONTINUED).

Dr. Samuel S. Quinn was born near New Town, the 22d day of April, 1838. His parents were Rev. William and Rosa B. Quinn; he was educated at New Town Academy, studied medicine under Drs. Hearn and McMaster, graduated at Maryland University, in the spring of 1859, and commenced, at once the practice of medicine in New Town. On the 19th day of June, 1861, he received the hand of Miss Sally A. Q. Atkinson in marriage. She died the 17th day of September, 1869. His present wife was Miss Amanda Conner, with whom he was united in marriage on the 16th day of November, 1871. Upon the institution of the High School in New Town, he was Trustee for several years. He served as commissioner of the Corporation, in 1871 and 72, and was also re-elected to that office this present year. Notwithstanding these tokens of preferment he has never been an applicant for any office. The Doctor while attending to his practice has been conducting the *Record* and *Gazette*, a weekly paper in which he owns an interest. He has three children living, one by his first wife and two by his second. He is quiet, genial and companionable, and is possessed of a brilliant intellect.

He is only approaching the meridian of his intellectual manhood, and has a bright future before him. Dr. Quinn is a member of the Presbyterian Church, in Pocomoke City.

Dr. Isaac T. Coston was born in Somerset County, Md., on the 10th day of October, 1832. His father was Wm. Coston, of Matthias : his mother's name was Rosa Taylor, daughter of Samuel Taylor. The Doctor was raised on the farm and could only avail himself of such schooling as could be had at a country school until he was sixteen years old. At sixteen he was admitted into the Washington Academy at Princess Anne, as one to receive the benefit of the State fund. He lived at a distance of six miles from the Academy and went and returned every school day for five years, except he was detained by sickness or extremely bad weather, all of which of course drew heavily upon his time that would under other circumstances have been devoted to study. At the expiration of five years spent in this way and his vacations in hard labor on the farm, he commenced to teach school and continued for two years, at the same time using all his spare hours in reading medicine. He then applied his time exclusively to the study of medicine for two years more under Drs. George Dixon, of Princess Anne, and John Neill, of Philadelphia. He then entered the Pennsylvania University, and after attending the regular courses of lectures, he graduated in March, 1857. Immediately after his graduation he located in Rehoboth, in Somerset County, where he practiced his profession until 1863, when he moved to Accomac County,

Va., and there he practiced for two years more, when in July, 1865, he moved to New Town, where he has continued the practice of medicine ever since. After settling in New Town he received on the 22d day of February, 1866, the hand of Miss Olivia Adams, daughter of the late Morris Adams, of Somerset County, in marriage. He has four children living; has held the position of trustee of Pocomoke High School for several years, which he resigned. The Doctor was, in November last, elected as a delegate to represent the people of Worcester County in the Legislature, which has now closed. He is a member of the Presbyterian Church in Pocomoke City, and is a very worthy and highly respected citizen.

Dr. Gordon T. Atkinson was born in Somerset County, Md. on the 18th day of December, 1846. He was educated at the New Town Academy and at Dickinson College. After he left College he read medicine under Dr. S. S. Quinn for one year, he then went to the University of Penn. and attended lectures. He received the degree of M. D. in 1869. He practiced medicine in Pocomoke City for one year. He then removed to Crisfield, Md. where he has since resided, pursuing the practice of his profession.

Dr. George T. Truitt, son of William R. and Sarah C. Truitt, was born in the City of Baltimore, in 1848. He alternately received his education in the City of Baltimore, in New Town, and in Claymont, Del., at which latter place he graduated. Immediately after his graduation at school he took up the study of medicine under Prof. Nathan R. Smith of Baltimore.

Prof. Smith was his preceptor until he graduated at the University School of Medicine, in the City of Baltimore, in 1869. In 1870, he commenced the practice of medicine in New Town, he remained here one year and removed to Millsboro, Sussex County, Delaware. He there practiced in partnership with G. F. Burton for one year, when the partnership was dissolved. He then practiced alone for three years, during which time he was married to Miss Virginia C. Burton, of that place. After remaining in Delaware during the time aforesaid Dr. Truitt again returned to New Town where he engaged in the practice of medicine until within a few years past, since which time he has devoted his time, exclusively, to Dental Surgery. Dr. Truitt is the only graduated physician, in Pocomoke City, who devotes himself, exclusively, to Dental Surgery in which he is a proficient. He is a vestryman in the Protestant Episcopal Church in Pocomoke City and is a good citizen and worthy of patronage.

Dr. Julius T. Hall was born on the old homestead near New Town, Worcester County, Md., on the 20th day of July, 1849. Soon afterwards his father, Zadock J. Hall moved to town where he raised his family. Julius received his education from the schools of the town, completing it in the High School. In 1867, he took charge of a school at Swansgut or Remson, where he remained for 18 months. In the fall of 1869, he took charge of Pitt's Creek School. In 1870, he accepted a position as teacher in the Pocomoke High School where he remained until 1874. He then accepted the position of assistant superintendant of Baltimore



House of Refuge, after remaining there some time, he accepted the principalship of Jacksonville Academy near Crisfield, Somerset county, Md. This was his largest and most flourishing school; he taught it for over three years and during the time he read medicine. In 1877, he entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons, in the University of Maryland. He attended two full courses of lectures and graduated in 1879. He forthwith opened an office in Pocomoke City where he has since been practicing his profession. In October, 1879, he was united in marriage to Miss Mary C. Thomas, of Norfolk Virginia.

Dr. Hall is a young man yet; he is a member of the Baptist Church in Pocomoke City; he is studious, industrious and is highly respected, both as a physician and citizen. Having a good mind and physical constitution, he has flattering prospects of a useful life and will, no doubt, be ranked among the first physicians of his day.

Dr. Wallace W. Freeman was born in Nashville, Tenn., on the 13th day of April, 1855. He was educated in the public schools of Memphis, Tenn., and Camden, New Jersey. He commenced the study of dentistry in Pocomoke City in the fall of 1879, and attended two sessions of lectures at the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, where, in 1882, he graduated and received his degree of D. D. S., after which he opened an office in Pocomoke City, where he is at present practicing his profession. He is studious and closely applies himself to business and is ambitious to excel in his profession. He may always be

found at his office, where he is prepared to give entire satisfaction in dental surgery.

Dr. Freeman is a member of the Baptist Church in Pocomoke City. He has a high sense of moral obligation and is a thorough temperance man. If these qualifications betoken a bright future in his profession, he will reach it.

Dr. John H. King was born in Princess Anne, Somerset County, Md., on the 29th day of August, 1857. He was educated at the High School of Pocomoke City. After leaving school, he entered the drug store of E. Fontaine as clerk, and had six years experience in the drug business, during which time he had read medicine under Dr. S. S. Quinn. After this he entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons in the City of Baltimore, at which he attended two full courses of lectures and graduated in March, 1882. He at once returned to Pocomoke City and commenced the practice of medicine, associating himself in partnership with Dr. S. S. Quinn. Dr. King is a young man of considerable promise; he has a good mind and an ambition to excel in his profession, which knows no flagging. He is sound on the temperance question and is a supporter of moral reforms, and as a physician, it is already said of him, "he is becoming quite popular." I have no doubt but that he will hold a place in the front ranks of his profession with honor.

In summing up the history of the medical fraternity of Pocomoke City, I will say we have eight physicians and

surgeons, all in the prime of life, their ages ranging from 25 to 54 years, all men of families except two, all belong to church except two, and they are church-goers and are professedly temperance men. When I think of former years when it was an exception for a physician to belong to church or to be professedly a temperance man, I am constrained to pronounce a eulogy upon the men who compose the medical fraternity of Pocomoke City, as being worthy of all praise for the noble stand which they have taken in support of Christianity and moral reform. I think Pocomoke City can challenge any town on the Eastern Shore of 1,500 inhabitants to produce such a brotherhood of physicians.

## CHAPTER XX.

## LAWYERS.

In 1867, Alpheus Sidney Stevens commenced the practice of law in New Town; previous to this time we never had a resident lawyer in the place. He was born in Somerset County, Md., on the 15th day of December, 1840. He was a regular descendant of Col. William Stevens, of colonial fame. His father, who is still living at or near the age of 75 years, is no doubt the great great grandson of Col. Wm. Stevens. This declaration could be corroborated by such a statement of facts were it necessary, as would leave but little room for cavil.

Alpheus Sidney Stevens was a self-made man. He only went to school two years, fifteen months of that time he went to a country school, which he afterward said was time thrown away. The remaining nine months was occupied at New Town Academy, during which time he made some advancement, enough at least to inspire a thirst for knowledge, which never abated during his life. At 15 years of age he engaged as clerk in a store and continued in that capacity for three years. At 18 years of age he obtained a first grade certificate from the School Board of Somerset County to teach school, and he

engaged in that occupation for three years more, at which time he was 21 years old. He then commenced merchandising in Pocomoke City and was a successful merchant for six years. On the 3d day of November, 1863, he was united in marriage to Miss Mary E. Truitt. During his mercantile life he read law and in 1867 was admitted to the bar of Worcester County, after passing one of the finest examinations. He practiced law for four years. His was a mind of no ordinary cast; indeed, he was a genius. Although he made great proficiency in the pursuit of knowledge for his opportunity, yet he was called away in the morning of life before he had reached the meridian of his intellectual manhood. Had he lived, no doubt he would have been a jurist of the first order and worthy to be associated with his ancestor of colonial fame. Mr. Stevens was a member of the Presbyterian Church in New Town. On the 19th day of July, 1872, he passed away like the blasted rosebud that just began to unfold its petals to make its fragrance known. So died Alpheus Sidney Stevens, at the age of 32 years, leaving a widow and four children to cherish his memory.

Benjamin Williams, attorney at law, was admitted to the bar of Worcester County Court about the year 1871. He was a native of Calvert County, Md. but moved to Worcester County prior to his study in law. Immediately after his admission to the bar, he located in Pocomoke City and commenced practicing his profession. He continued in the practice of law for about two years and then moved to another part of the State.

Adial P. Barnes, attorney at law, was born in Nassanaddus, Worcester County Md., on the 10th day of September, 1848. His parents were James A. and Sarah E. Barnes. His father was quite an extensive and very successful farmer and accumulated a large amount of wealth, and is living, at ease, in Pocomoke City, at the age of three score and ten years.

Adial P. Barnes, in his early life, labored on his father's farm with the farm hands except when going to school. He attended a country school, where only the elementary principles of education were taught. In his youth, he had an ardent desire to get an education that he might be prepared to enter upon a professional life. His father, seeing the bent of his mind, sent him to the Public High School of Pocomoke City, where he was taught the higher branches of education. After attending this school for two years he read law in the office of George W. Purnell, Esq., in Snow Hill, for one year. He then went to the University of Virginia and attended law lectures, in that institution, for two years. After which he went to the University of Maryland and took his degree in the law department of that institution, in the month of June, 1873. Upon graduating he opened a law office, in the same year, in Pocomoke City, where he followed his profession until the month of October, 1877, when he removed to Snow Hill, Md., and opened an office there, where he is still engaged in the practice of law. Mr. Barnes is a growing lawyer and ranks well with his professional brotherhood.

He is a young man yet, and having an ambition to excel, he will, no doubt, with his application make his mark as a jurist whose talent will command a lucrative practice and secure a name to be envied.

J. Lloyd Wilkinson was born in New Town on the 13th day of May, 1857. His father Rev. William Wilkinson was a Baptist minister. Mr. Wilkinson attended the High School at New Town until he was eleven years of age. After this he entered the Drug Store of Mr. C. C. Lloyd as clerk, after being in the drug store of Mr. Lloyd for several years he went to Culpepper, in Virginia, to take charge of a drug store there. During the time, in which he was engaged in the drug business, he read law under Gen. Jas. G. Field of Culpepper, who is at present, Attorney-General for the state of Virginia, and in 1878 he was admitted to the bar. At this period he was 21 years of age. He practiced in the courts of Madison, Green and Culpepper Counties, Va. In the winter of 1879 and 1880, he returned to Pocomoke City and in 1880 he was admitted to the Worcester bar.

Mr. Wilkinson is a young man of promise, with a good mind looming up into brilliancy, and is rising in the estimation of all who know him, for his legal ability.

John Glenn Townsend was born in Nassawaddux, Worcester County, Maryland, on the 25th day of May, 1853, and resided, up to his early manhood, in the county of his birth. He received a common school education, and being of studious habits he prepared himself for a teacher

in the public schools. He was appointed principal of the grammar school at Stockton, Worcester County, Md., which position he held some considerable time, during which he studied law and was admitted to the bar in Worcester County, in 1877. He, however, continued teaching school for two years. Afterwards he opened a law office in Pocomoke City, where he has since practiced his profession. Mr. Townsend is the youngest son of Teagle Townsend, deceased, who was a leading man in the county, of the old Whig party.

J. Glenn Townsend is quite a young man and has, comparatively, just entered the arena of public life as a lawyer. If a noted family record, with a good mind and studious habits, together with a good moral and religious character, is any warrant of success, he will doubtless honor his profession.

J. Shiles Crockett, attorney at law, was born in Princess Anne, Md., on the 12th day of December, 1858. He was educated partly at the Princess Anne Academy and at St. John's College, Annapolis, Md., at which latter institution he graduated in 1878. He read law in the office of Col. Henry Page and was admitted to the bar of Somerset County Court in 1880. He then moved to Crisfield and practiced his profession until 1882, when he removed to Pocomoke City. Mr. Crockett is a young man with a good mind and is a graduate at college. He read law under one of the first lawyers of the State. With application he has everything in his favor to insure success in his profession.



A history of the legal profession in New Town, now Pocomoke City, would be incomplete not to mention the fact that many of the lawyers, both of the Snow Hill and Princess Anne bar, have practiced law in New Town, and chief among those of the Princess Anne bar who have thus practiced are John W. Crisfield, James U. Dennis, Col. Henry Page and William McMaster. Those of the Snow Hill bar are Dennard Williams, Judge John R. Franklin, Walter P. Snow, Judge Ephraim K. Wilson, William H. W. Farrow, George W. Purnell George M. Upshur, William S. Wilson, Clayton J. Purnell and Adial P. Barnes. The Messrs. G. W. Purnell, G. M. Upshur, W. S. Wilson, C. J. Purnell and A. P. Barnes, have still their stated times of visitations to Pocomoke City attending to all business appertaining to the law.

## CHAPTER XXI.

## POST OFFICE.

The postoffice, in the early history of New Town, was a very small affair, so small, indeed, that I have the impression that there was no pay for transmission of the mail from Snow Hill to New Town, as that was, then, the mail route. I am indorsed in this declaration by the fact that it was transmitted by individual citizens when they would go to Snow Hill, on business, on public days.

As early as 1820, Michael Murray, my father, was postmaster for New Town. When other means of getting the mail would fail, my father would send my two oldest brothers, each one on horseback, to Snow Hill for the mail. After these two brothers went to Baltimore to learn a trade, this duty at times fell upon my two next older brothers and myself. The mail was due at New Town once a week, and sometimes it would lay in the office at Snow Hill two weeks for the want of a carrier. In such emergencies, my fathers would say to us: "Boys, you must take the canoe," for then we had no horse, "and go to Snow Hill for the mail." At that period I do not think I was more than eight years of age. We manned the boat with two oars and a paddle; as I was the

youngest, it fell to my lot to be steersman, as that was the easiest part of the work. We would start on the first of the flood tide. We were going on United States business, and being little boys, of course we felt the importance of our mission. When the boys would lean back with their oars and make a long pull and a strong pull the canoe, as a thing of life, would dart ahead and seemed to say to me: "If you don't mind I will run from under you." Thus we tugged and sweated until we reached Snow Hill. We went up to the postoffice and got the mail. If the ebb tide had made we started for home. Sometimes we would be in the night getting home. At such times I would get sleepy and would be afraid I would fall overboard. Incidents like the following have taken place when we have been delayed till the night getting home. A storm cloud would arise, the thunder and lightning would be terrific, the rain coming down seemingly in torrents. We had no covering but the cloud out of which the rain was descending. When we would be getting down near the old ferry, now the bridge, we would begin to halloo at the top of our voices, knowing that our mother would be down at the back of the lot looking up the river to see if we were coming. Sure enough she would be the first one to meet us when we reached the shore. The reader will learn that my father's house stood on the same ground where William J. S. Clarke's house now stands. There was no wharf then between the lot and the river. There was nothing but tuckahoes, mud and bramble.

When I think of the incident just described with many others in which a mother's love has been shown, I am constrained to exclaim: "Oh! the thoughts of a precious loving mother; I once had such a mother, and the remembrance of her is like sweet incense poured forth." We arrived safely at home, ate our supper, went to bed and slept soundly. The next morning the mail was opened. The citizens would call for their mail matter. Some of them had friends living in the far West, on the frontiers of civilization, as far away as Ohio and ye Old Kentucky. Oh! what a wonderful sight it was then, to a little boy, to see a man who had come from that far-away country. As I have already stated the New Town mail was very small. There were but few newspapers in the country and I have no knowledge what the postage was on them. Letter postage was regulated by the distance a letter had to go. For instance, the postage on a letter from New Town to Baltimore was ten cents and from New Town to New Orleans it was twenty-five cents. Anything over half ounce was double postage then as it is now. Forty years ago there was an express arrangement from New Orleans to Baltimore in the form of a flying post; that is to say, horses on the route would be bridled and saddled already to start at the moment. For instance, the starting point would be at New Orleans, the horse was saddled and bridled and the rider in the saddle; at the moment the signal to start was given, the rider would go in flying speed to the next station of probably four miles distance, at which another horse would be all ready, the

rider would dismount and mount again and thus pursue the route to Baltimore. A letter by this route cost seventy-five cents from New Orleans to New Town; if the letter had money in it or over a half ounce the postage was one dollar and fifty cents. How long this express route existed I cannot say, probably not long. In 1827, Michael Murray, my father, resigned the postmastership, having held that position from my earliest recollection. At the period referred to above, there was no mail pouch to put the mail matter in; indeed, the mail would be so small that it would be tied up with twine and taken in the hand, not larger than any one of the neighborhood mails that go out of Pocomoke City Postoffice at the present day. .

The following is a list of names of postmasters of New Town Postoffice from 1820 to 1882: Michael Murray, Thos. Brittingham, John Burnett, Dr. James B. Horsey, John S. Stevenson, Dr. Joseph L. Adreon, William J. S. Clarke, William H. T. Clarvoe, C. C. Lloyd, James Murray, Dr. John T. B. McMaster, William H. S. Merrill and James H. Vincent, who is the present incumbent. Thus the names of the postmasters of New Town Postoffice will be preserved from oblivion to those who do not take the pains to search the official records for such information.

I would here state that the postoffice went begging for an appointee as late as 1861. This was the case when it came into the writers hands at the above date. The mail, in New Town, was semi-weekly and the post master

received about 80 dollars per year for his services. About 1863, the postoffice became a salaried one. The postmaster was required to keep a correct account of all mail matter going through the office during the last quarter of the year and make a return of the same to the postoffice department at Washington, and his salary was based upon the per centage allowed him on all mail matter going through the office that quarter, for two years to come. Thus the salary was fixed every two years.

The postoffice in Pocomoke City, at the present day, pays a salary of \$700. It is one to be coveted and one that will induce a political struggle to obtain. As late, probably, as 1850, we had but one mail a week, now we have three mails a day, and soon the fourth one will be added. The rate of postage, then, was fixed according to the distance a letter had to go. Then a letter from New Town to New Orleans was twenty-five cents, now a letter postage is three cents to any part of the United States.

## CHAPTER XXII.

## PRINTING OFFICES.

In 1865, Albert J. Merrill established a printing press in New Town. He edited and published a weekly paper called the *Record*. This was the first paper ever published in New Town. It was creditable, neat and highly prized by the people. In 1865, William L. Clarke, a native of Worcester County, who had been living in Wellsville, Ohio, for several years, and had published a paper there called the *Wellsville Patriot*, returned to this, his native county, and established a printing press in New Town, and edited and published a paper called the *Gazette*. This paper, also, was neatly gotten up, and was a credit to its editor, and highly prized by its patrons.

These two editors sent out their weekly issues down to 1872, when A. J. Merrill, Esq., bought out William L. Clarke, Esq., and consolidated the two papers into one, called the *Record and Gazette*, under the editorial management and control of A. J. Merrill, Esq.

In 1879, Dr. S. S. Quinn bought one half of the press, and its appurtenances, and had the editorial management of the paper under the firm of A. J. Merrill and S. S. Quinn, until 1882, when J. Shiles Crocket became one-

third owner of the press and paper, and is now the editor and manager of the same, under the firm of Merrill, Quinn & Crocket.



## CHAPTER XXIII.

## SOCIAL ASPECT, &amp;c.

The social aspect of New Town, now Pocomoke City. The reader may be anxious to learn something of the habits and social bearing of the citizens during its early history. Well ! to begin, the citizens, with very few exceptions, would take their toddy ; hence, the common practice which was followed by parents of mixing a glass of toddy before breakfast and handing it to each member of the family, from the oldest to the youngest. This practice was as common as the days rolled round, when I was a little boy. Again, when friends would visit each other the decanter of liquor, glasses, sugar and water would be set out, and an invitation given to come up and help themselves. Again, when citizens and men from the country would congregate, on Saturday, at the stores, (for the stores were the chief places of resort) a pint of liquor would be called for. The pint cup would be set out with tumblers and pitcher of water, and the invitation given to all present to come up, "come up gentlemen and help yourselves." Then toasts would be drank, something after the following order, with the glass in hand, addressing the company : "well ! gentle-

men! here is luck and a plenty." Frequently they would get quite mellow over the pint cup before they left it; and likely enough a few brushes of the fist would follow.

Another feature of social life was that of families visiting each other to eat the social meal. At such times they would remain after supper with the family until usual bedtime, passing the time in such conversation as would be agreeable to all. The family code at that day was: that children could be seen but must not be heard while the older persons were talking.

A little incident occurred one night, on one of those occasions, in relation to myself, which will be somewhat amusing to the reader: Some neighbors had called in to take supper with my father and mother, and staid till after night. The little folks had received orders to sit and listen but must not talk, if they did, the one so offending must march off up stairs to bed. Somehow or other I broke the law, I was discovered talking to the boys, who with myself, with this single exception, were as mute as mice, the result was I had to go to bed. While lying in bed, reviewing my conduct during the day and night, I knew I had been a bad boy. Conscience was supreme and hurled its thunderbolts at me. I began to cast my thoughts around and contemplate the possibility of Satan's coming after me that night, and if so what should I do. Just at that moment, while under such terrible reflections, the house cat, which by means of the room door being left open, had crept into the room and jumped upon the bed, in doing which it jumped in my face. The reader may, if

he can, imagine my feelings; to me they were beyond description. I grabbed the cat with both hands, and threw it in another part of the room. But, oh! the terror that seized me. I screamed at the top of my voice. As soon as I took hold of the cat I knew what it was, but the fact of its being the cat did not abate my screaming. I thought the Devil was about to lay hold of me. My mother was swift to my rescue, and carried me down stairs, and I was once more happy in being seated in the corner with the children listening to the old folks at home. Again, the social life was exhibited in the various amusements and pastimes of the day. For instance, the game of fives with the trapball was a favorite sport with both men and boys; the playing of cards was also frequently practiced in families; shooting at the mark for turkeys, quarters of beef, etc. Wrestling was much in vogue in the early history of New Town. Men and boys both would engage in it. Boxing was also practiced.

I have beheld such sports and have seen men kick each other like horses. Sometimes death would be the result of such exercises. There were men in New Town and the surrounding county who prided themselves upon their manhood. Sometimes they would exhibit their strength by lifting the fifty-six pound weights, which were used in the tobacco warehouse for weighing tobacco. The two heaviest lifts were as follows: one lifted eleven the other fourteen fifty-six pound weights, each man aggregating respectively 616 pounds and 784 pounds. Query: Are

there two men in Pocomoke City at the present who can come up to this. Those shooting, wrestling and boxing matches were attended with a spirit of rivalry which would sometimes culminate in a pitched battle. I have seen men strip themselves to the waist and commence their brutality. Those fights would be equal in brutality, if not so scientific, to the prize fights of recent years. Again, social life would be seen in the cotton pickings, quiltings and dances. After the cotton picking or quilting had been attended to, the plays would commence. For instance, a family had a quilt to be quilted, they would invite the young ladies to come in the afternoon and the gentlemen would go after supper. By supper time the quilt would be finished. After supper the plays would commence by singing those songs that used to be sung on such occasions "in the days of yore." Of course they had kissing in the plays, for that was the most enjoyable part of them. On a certain occasion it was the fortune of a certain young man to call out a lady whom it would be his pleasure, as he thought, to kiss. The call was made, the young lady came out upon the floor, she was very tall and he was low of stature, she was aristocratic and was mortified at being called out by him; he attempted to kiss her, but she held her head well up and snuffed her nose at him, so that he could not succeed, but he was equal to the emergency. "Stop! stop!" said he, "let me draw my boots and climb." The take-off was so good that it raised a great titter in the company and that young lady's pride got a fall that

night. I have spoken of the songs in those plays, one of which I will mention as illustrative of the character of the rest.

“Here we go to Baltimore,  
Two behind and two before;  
Round and round and round we go,  
Where oats, peas, beans  
And barley grows.”

From the best information that I can get this is an Irish song. The word Baltimore was originally spelled “Bailte Mor” and signified a proprietary of a barony or large town. On a certain occasion there was a social gathering at the house of an old gentleman. The young folks were formed in a ring, holding on to each other's hands, and singing the above song. As they were marching round and round, a certain young man was in reach of the old gentleman as he sat in the corner of the hearth-place, when he slapped him on the shoulder, exclaiming: “Johnnie, honey, don't you love the gals!” The answer was prompt: “Oh, yes, Uncle Davie!” still singing as they swung around the circle.

## CHAPTER XXIV.

## SOCIAL ASPECT (CONTINUED.)

Again, the dance was a favorite source of social entertainment in the early history of New Town. There were three classes of characters, which I shall describe, participating in this amusement. First, the first citizens of the town engaged in it. Sometimes it was the result of a wedding, a cotton picking, quilting, or it may have been a special dancing party. I am not now describing the balls held at hotels where a gentleman and lady could enter by paying the entrance fee, but social dances held at private houses for amusement. The host and hostess would provide such things as wines, liquors, candies, cake and tropical fruit to make the entertainment as enjoyable as possible. The invited guests would assemble after candle light. They were composed chiefly of single persons, but sometimes there would be a small sprinkling of married ones also. An expert fiddler would be engaged. All things being ready and the parties on the floor, the fiddler having his fiddle well tuned, would draw his bow at full length, when a feeling of exhilaration would go through the room like electricity. The parties now engaged in a four or eight-handed reel. Oh! what a fine time there

was. The cotillions, waltzing, capering, parties passing each other on the floor, crossing and around the room, cutting the pigeon wing, etc. After that reel was over the hat would be passed around to take a collection for the fiddler, for that was the way he was paid for his services. Then another party would be made up and after the dance the hat was passed around again, and so the night was spent till or near the break of day. When they would get weary and faint they would keep their spirits up by pouring spirits down. At such places of hilarity many a young lady's heart and hand has been wooed in marriage.

Secondly. The lower class of society in the country, both of men and women, would attend the holidays in New Town. On those occasions they assembled at the hotels and engaged in the dance, and some of the same order of men in New Town would participate with them. It would be a novel sight at the present day to see such a gathering of men and women at a hotel engaged in a regular hoe down, such as was practiced then.

Thirdly. This class would be the colored people. They would assemble in town from all the surrounding country. They would construct booths on the hill or public square, in which they would have for sale cakes, candies, cider, beer and tropical fruits. They would have all sorts of jollity, boxing, wrestling, pitching quoits, dancing after the fiddle and pattywhack. This word pattywhack of itself is unmeaning, hence I shall be under the necessity of explaining the process of the dance in this way. The

company would be in the open air on the hill. The leader in this amusement would pat with his hands and stamp with his foot while the rest would dance. The leader would use some outlandish expression in song, such as the following :

“Juber up and Juber down,  
Juber all around de town.”

And when they would reach the climax, he would sing out with an extended voice :

“Jump over double trouble Juber.”

Then such antics and gymnastics as the dancers would perform with their hands and feet, keeping time with the leader, as would be truly diverting to the reader could he behold such a performance now. Another song which they would sing in their dances was :

“Possum up de gum bush,  
Raccoon in de holler,  
Saddle on de gray mare,  
Martingil and collar.”

I have endeavored to spell their words as they would pronounce them. Late in the afternoon, they would be seen with their little bundle of cakes, getting ready to start for home. Thus the day closed with them. The social aspect of New Town, now Pocomoke City, has undergone a change for the better. Whereas in the description already given of social life, in the early history of New Town, as contributing to the pleasures and passions of the animal, now it is seen in the improvement of the intellec-



tual and religious part of man. Sociability seems to have left the lower walks of our fallen nature and is aspiring to a higher sphere of our manhood, as may be seen in the following instances, namely : in the formation of literary and beneficial societies, in the mingling together in the pursuit of knowledge. Indeed, the free public school system, in the Pocomoke City High School, has contributed largely to, and has acted a very important part in the social status of Pocomoke City. Here mind is pre-eminent, and the scholars who possess superior intellect are honored for their talent, and their society is appreciated whether they be rich or poor.

Again, the various picnics and festivals gotten up for the promotion of education, churches, sabbath schools, missionary and other benevolent societies, in which all have an interest, and all mingle. Although the different churches may in one sense be considered distinct communities, yet when contemplated in their great work of doing good they are one grand whole, emulating each other in elevating society and promoting the social and religious bearing of Pocomoke City. Again the improvement of the musical talent, by the young folks, has contributed largely to social life in Pocomoke City. Whereas instead of listening to the old timey songs, in the days of yore, by uncultivated voices, now it is simply fascinating to listen to the select pieces of music as sung either in the choir, at concerts, or in social gatherings by those who have cultivated voices, and who are well educated in the science

of music. The query may be agitated, what has produced such a change in the social condition? Answer. It may be the increase of the population, a higher grade of schooling and the influence of the churches.

## CHAPTER XXV.

## MORAL ASPECT.

The moral aspect of New Town in its early history. Although there were some good and holy people in New Town, whose lives stood out as burning and shining lights, and although the gospel was making successful attacks on the fortifications of sin and wickedness, and winning many jewels from the rank and file of sinners, and presenting them as trophies to the Saviour of men; yet the morals of the people, as a whole were comparatively at a low ebb. In order to see more clearly the debased state of morals, I will give you some few specifications for illustration, for instance: the habit of drunkenness, though it was always condemned by the good and true, yet it was winked at, and the votaries of the practice moved along in society as though nothing very serious had hapened.

Again, the habit of swearing was very common. When men would meet in New Town, on Saturdays, on business or for social interview, for that was the public day, he that could swear the keenest, sharpest oaths, attracted the greatest attention, especially from the boys.

If there was a fray on hand, he that could use the most awful asseverations and foul-mouth imprecations as though he were commissioned from the bottomless pit, serpent like to infect his poison, was the greatest man of the crowd.

Again, gambling was much in vogue, gambling socially and for money, and many were the times that men would lengthen out the midnight taper till the dawn of coming day, using all their ingenuity to get each others money.

Again conjuration, fortune-telling, witchcraft and superstition were all believed to be as true as preaching, by the lowest class of society.

But while conjuration and witchcraft have long since disappeared from society, fortune-telling and superstition have lingered longer, and there may be some of the old folks now living, particularly among the fair sex, who have had their fortunes told by the cutting of cards or the grounds of a coffee cup, in order to learn who their future husbands would be. Perhaps there may be some of those already spoken of who have showed the new moon a piece of silver in order to have good luck that moon, or who believed in sowing certain seeds on certain states of the moon as sure, only then of vegetating, or who have their pork butchered on the increase of the moon in order for it to swell, believing if the moon is on the decrease the pork would shrink. But these practices, to some extent, have gone into the shades and the people have already learned that the only road to success in any enterprise is application; that the diligent hand maketh rich, while laziness and idleness paves the way to poverty and ruin.

## CHAPTER XXVI.

## TEMPERANCE CAUSE.

The temperance cause as a distinct organization was unknown in the early history of New Town. The only thing bordering on temperance was the denunciations against drunkenness from the sacred desk, which declared that "drunkards shall not inherit the kingdom of God." Notwithstanding this first out-beaming of the temperance cause from the pulpit, professed Christians would sometimes be seen with flushed cheeks and tongues unbridled, as the result of the too frequent use of the glass. Indeed, the habit of drinking spirituous liquors, with the exception of a very few, was quite common in families, in social gatherings and in business life. In all these relations the social glass was indulged in freely. I have already stated in another part of this history that to be successful in merchandising it was considered absolutely necessary to sell liquor. Hence all who engaged in the sale of goods, without an exception, sold spirituous liquors. In view of this state of things it cannot be wondered at that there should be drunkards and a plenty of them too. While the vender would fatten upon his ill-gotten gains,

his victims with their families and children would be left destitute, in want and clothed in rags, and sometimes it was the case that the wives and little ones would be sitting over a few coals of fire contemplating their wretched condition, with scarcely a ray of hope for the future, with no refuge to fly to except to Him who heareth in secret.

Oh ! how many broken-hearted wives have poured forth their bitter cries for help in His Almighty ear and told their tale of sorrow and inquired of Him, "How long, O Lord, how long shall this state of things last?" Well, their prayers have been answered, but not in stopping the vender from his wholesale ruin of men, women and children ; not in restoring to her former condition of happiness and joy that mother who was being murdered by piece meal; not in restoring to hope and cheerfulness the forlorn condition of the little children. But their prayers have been answered in another way. Time rolled on and brought its changes. The vender with his victims have passed away to a future reckoning, and to that tribunal whose decisions are in righteousness.

If I could, I would call the vender back and inquire of him who they are that accuse him before the throne, for their name is legion. There was no material change in society upon the subject of temperance until 1835, when the Rev. Mr. Dorsey of the Baltimore conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church came down here and lectured upon that subject, and organized a temperance society. That society only forbade the use of spirituous

liquors as a beverage. Up to this time all the stores sold spirituous liquors. The first one to break ground and give up the sale of it was Rev. John D. Long who was at that time but a youth not having arrived to his majority. He had but recently joined the Methodist Episcopal Church and listening to the lecture became convinced that the sale of it was wrong and determined to give up the practice forthwith. It is true that Mr. Long sold goods at the ferry, now the bridge, on the identical spot where the phosphate factory now stands, but I associate him, in this instance, with New Town, because he was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church here, because his associations were here, and because he was identified with the temperance movement in New Town. He was telling a veteran Methodist of his determination to quit selling liquor, when the old soldier said to him "Brother Long if it is wrong for you to sell it, it is wrong for me to distil it." Forthwith they abandoned the manufacture and sale of it. The temperance cause now began to be agitated in New Town.

In 1836, Wm. Townsend opened the first store for the sale of goods, without spirituous liquors, in new Town. After awhile the old Washingtonian club of reformed drunkards, which was organized in the City of Baltimore, began to create a stir in favor of temperance. Some of their number came down here and lectured. Thus the temperance cause progressed until the organization of the Sons of Temperance, in 1847. The Sons of Temperance

was also a beneficial society, it prospered for a while and seemed to be well adapted to the circumstances of the times. During its palmy days, the society built a fine temperance hall, which at present is owned by C. C. Lloyd, Esq., and has been occupied by him, as a drug store, for several years past. The upper story was in one entire room, and was occupied by the society. The lower room was fitted for store purposes, and was first occupied by Irving Merrill, Esq., who sold goods on strictly temperance principles. The society had placed in the gable end of the building a marble slab, with the following carved upon it: "New Town Division, Number 43, Sons of Temperance, instituted March 29th, 1847:" which still exists as a monument of the prosperity of the temperance cause at that day. This society existed, however, but a few years, when it was dissolved and the beautiful temple was sold, and went into other hands.

In 1870, another temperance society was organized in New Town, with the name of Good Templars. This society was also of short duration, it existed about two years, when it also became extinct.

From 1872 to 1881, there has been no regular temperance society in New Town, now Pocomoke City. During 1881, a society was organized in the place, in support of Local Option Reform, and the friends of temperance are mustering their forces for victory. But while temperance societies have been organized and dissolved, it only shows that the war, for the extirpation of spirituous liquors, in



Pocomoke City, has been going on without any compromise. The churches also have kept up the war cry and are pressing hard upon this demon of destruction, and they are forcing him, by the power of the Gospel, to surrender. If the question should be asked by a stranger, what are the signs of complete victory for the cause of temperance in Pocomoke City? This question will be answered in the following way : whereas, in 1836, every store in New Town sold spirituous liquors, now in 1882, there are thirty-two business houses in Pocomoke City, and not one of them sells it except the apothecaries who sell it as a medicine. So thorough has been the revolution in society, upon the subject of temperance, that I might venture the prediction that there is no one who could, now, succeed in merchandising, in Pocomoke City, who would also sell liquor. It is true that there are two places in Pocomoke City where spirituous liquors are sold as a beverage, one is a saloon the other is the hotel bar, but the friends of temperance, I am apprehensive, will not cease their efforts until these places will be so restricted by legislation that it will not pay to sell it.

## CHAPTER XXVII.

## SCHOOLS.

The schools are a very important factor in making up the history of New Town, now Pocomoke City, and I have no doubt a description of the school in its early history, together with the school-house, will be quite interesting. The school-house was sixteen square ; it had two doors and two windows, and there was a writing desk which reached nearly across the room, and benches without backs for the scholars to sit upon. This school-house stood on a piece of ground facing on Second and Cedar Streets, about twenty feet on Second Street and running down Cedar Street about seventy-five feet to the junction of Captain John H. Clarke's and Captain Jas. H. Young's lines. This piece of ground belongs to the heirs of Wm J. Long, deceased. It formerly belonged to David Long, the father of William J. Long, and he charged twenty-five cents rent for it, which was done simply to hold possession of it. The old school-house stood on this piece of ground and was occupied for school purposes until 1837 or 1838, when it was sold and went into other hands. If the youthful reader is anxious to see the old school-house in which their parents and grand-parents were educated, they

will find it occupied as a kitchen at the corner of Commerce and Walnut Streets, the property being owned by Thomas S. Stevenson, Esq. The only teachers of whom I have any information or knowledge in the early history of New Town were: George Furnis, a Mr. McFadden, Levi Bishop, Samuel Carey, Michael Murray, Dr. John B. H. W. Clarvoe and James Stevenson. These were all good teachers of the branches of education which they taught. The different branches taught were letters, spelling, reading, writing, and arithmetic. When a scholar could cipher through Pike's Arithmetic, understandingly, he was considered a finished scholar in that school.

Steel pens were not then invented and writing was done with pens made out of goose quills. It was one part of the teacher's duties to make pens for the scholars, and when scholars had learned sufficiently to make a pen out of a goose quill, they were advancing finely. Although the teachers of this school taught but few of the branches of common English comparatively, yet so thorough was the training that there are but few now, if any, who would surpass the scholars of that school in these branches. The boys in that school would sometimes have a little fun, sometimes with the teacher and sometimes with each other. For instance: the scholars had to get lessons in the definitions in the spelling book, this they called grammar. Some who had to get those lessons and recite them to the teacher had been out too long, at play, they would resort to the older scholars to put them through in a hurry.

"Well!" says the advisor: "when you go up to say your lesson commencing with ball a round substance, you say b-a-l-l, cattle or horses." In these lessons the scholar was required to spell the word and define it. The time for recitation came. "Well!" says the teacher, "commence!" scholar: b-a-double-l ball." Teacher. Well! what does that signify?" Scholar: "cattle or horses." Teacher. "Cattle or horses!" Scholar. "Yes sir. Cattle or horses!" The teacher having his black gum switch by his side commenced giving it to him che-wi-o, che-wi-o, until he had given him a good sound thrashing, and then sent him to his seat to get his lesson better.

In 1835, George S. Redden, Esq., commenced teaching school here. He taught, in addition to the other branches which had been taught, English grammar and geography. With him dates the beginning or introduction of these branches of education in the school in New Town, and with him begins, also, the day of progress in the pursuit of scholarly attainments.

Mr. Redden taught school in New Town at two different periods, but how long I cannot say. He was born in New Town, in 1803, after going to school until he was old enough to go to a trade, he was then apprenticed to Jacob Rogers, in the City of Baltimore, to learn the hatting business. While he was an apprentice he went to a night school, taught by Mr. Kirkham, author of Kirkham's grammar. After his majority, he commenced the hatting business in New Town. How long he continued I have no

definite knowledge, but probably not more than two years, after which he returned to Baltimore and continued there until 1835, when he returned again to New Town, and commenced as before stated, to teach school. After he gave up the school in this place, he taught in the schools on the Western Shore of Maryland and in the Academy in Snow Hill, during which time he read law, graduated and practiced at the Snow Hill Bar.

Mr. Redden was one of the most intellectual young men of his day, that was raised in New Town. He died in the City of Baltimore about the year 1868, aged sixty-five years. Dr. John L. Hearn succeeded Mr. Redden. As I have given a history of Dr. Hearn under another heading, I will here pass him by.

In 1838, the old Academy was built and Dr. William Marsters was employed to take charge of the school. He remained, however, but a short time, and afterwards settled near Quantico, in Somerset County, now Wicomico County, and graduated in medicine and practiced till he died, which event occurred but recently. A Mr. Schooler succeeded Dr. Marsters and taught in the Academy until, probably, 1842, when he resigned the position and went away. Of his antecedents I have no data upon which to write his history.

Nehemiah Holland succeeded Mr. Schooler, and taught school two or three years. He finally resigned the position on account of feeble health, and went South. He settled in Texas, where he read law, graduated and

practiced his profession until his death, which event occurred but recently. Mr. Holland was a native of Worcester County, Md., and a brother of Mrs. L. Jane Dennis, widow of the late John U. Dennis, of this county. He was a graduate of Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Mr. Holland was a christian gentleman in the highest sense of that term. I have already stated that George S. Redden taught two terms in New Town, his second term followed Mr. Holland, then followed in succession : Mr. McGarry, George W. Curtis, C. C. Holtzman, Edward W. Stevenson, J. Allen Graves, Dr. Joseph L. Mills and Rev. Joseph L. Polk. During Mr. Polk's charge of the Academy, the High School Building was erected, which was in 1867. The Academy was occupied for school purposes twenty-nine years, when it was sold and went into other hands. It is at present owned by Ralph Ross, Esq., and is occupied as a carpenter shop, on Commerce Street. Messrs. McGarrey, Curtis and Holtzman were strangers of whose antecedents I have no knowledge, and consequently can only say of Mr. McGarrey and Mr. Holtzman that they were good teachers ; but of Mr. Curtis I have this to say : that it was conceded, by the citizens of New Town, that he was the best teacher that had taught school in New Town up to his day. He did not, however, continue long in New Town. He finally removed to Harford County, Maryland, where he established a school of high grade, preparatory for college, and is principal of the same to the present day. Edward W. Stevenson succeeded Mr.

Holtzman and taught school in the Academy for nine years. Mr. Stevenson is a native of New Town. He received his education partly in New Town and partly in the Snow Hill Academy. After he resigned his position as teacher in the New Town Academy, he moved to Philadelphia where he engaged in mercantile pursuits. After being there for sometime, he removed to Marietta, Ohio, where he still resides and is still engaged in mercantile business. Mr. Stevenson is a man of high moral character, and is living to bless the present generation with a fine family of prosperous children, who will no doubt make their mark in due time.

J. Allen Graves succeeded Mr. Stevenson in the principalship of New Town Academy. How long he occupied the position I cannot say, and of whose history I have no information, consequently I can only say that he was an acceptable teacher.

Dr. Joseph L. Mills succeeded Mr. Graves in the Academy. He was born in New Town, Md. in 1840. He was left at an early day without father or mother, but was tenderly and carefully raised by his grandmother. He had all the advantages of education in the New Town Academy, until he was old enough to go to a trade. His grandmother then placed him under the care of James T. Dickinson of this place to learn the cabinet and undertaking business. Some time after his majority he was united in marriage to Miss Marietta Dickinson, daughter of James T. Dickinson. At an early day Mr. Mills

connected himself with the Methodist Protestant Church, and it was not long before the Church discovered that he had talents lying dormant that ought to be called into exercise, and soon he was licensed to preach, and afterwards was received in the Maryland Annual Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church as a traveling preacher. He had not traveled long, however, before his health failed and he was induced to retire from the active work for awhile. It was during this retirement that we have him before us as principal of the New Town Academy. He had for his assistants, his wife Mrs. Marietta Mills and Miss Mary M. Hearn. It was under his tutelage that the school seemed to spring into new life, and some of the scholars learned as they never had before. He did not, however, teach more than, probably, two years, when his health was sufficiently restored to enter again the active work of the ministry. Dr. Mills is quite a popular preacher in his denomination; he has filled several prominent appointments in that church, and he had, several years ago for distinguished abilities, the Doctor of Divinity conferred upon him. Dr. Mills is yet, but in the prime of his life and reflects great credit upon his birth place.

There were two other schools in New Town beside the Academy, one was the Parish School, which was under the supervision and control of the Rector of the Protestant Episcopal Church. It was organized in 1847. This school was taught severally by the following ladies, Mrs. Lore, the Misses Magruder, Mary O'Dell, Mary Canon, Jennie



Adams, Mary Crosdale and Clementine Mezick. All competent and faithful teachers. The other school was organized in 1855. It was gotten up in view of the Academy being over crowded with scholars, and it was also thought to be more suitable for girls and smaller boys. This school was taught severally by the following persons, Mrs. Rev. William Merrill, Mrs. Leach J. Stewart, the Misses Emma Huston, Cynthia Primrose, Serena Hall, Rose Humphries, Mary E. Truitt, Millie Stevenson, Nettie Clayville and Rev. William Wilkinson. These were all well qualified as teachers, some of them being graduates of Seminaries.

## XXVIII.

## SCHOOLS (CONTINUED.)

In 1865, The General Assembly of Maryland passed a general free school bill for the state, and in 1867, the High School Building, in New Town, was erected. Its dimensions were fifty-six, by forty feet. It is two stories high, with two vestibules fourteen by twenty feet, containing in all six school rooms and two vestibules. Four of these rooms are twenty eight by forty feet, and two of them are fourteen by twenty feet, and will furnish sittings for, probably, three hundred scholars. This High School Building has been pronounced, by the Superintendent of the Public Schools of Maryland to be the finest building of the kind on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. It stands on a plat of ground of about three acres, in an eligible part of the town. It is well laid out with trees of different kinds, and is enclosed with a plank fence, with a good hedge coming on. The free public High School of New Town was opened in 1867, with Rev. Joseph L. Polk as principal. His successors in that office were, William N. Page, R. K. Wimbrough and Dr. Sidney W. Handy who is the present principal. They have had the following named persons associated with them as assistant teachers, Nettie

O'Daniel, Mary M. Hearn, Charles H. Council, Millie Primrose, John W. Murray, George S. Bell, Eudora E. Hay, Ebenezer Hearn, Julius T. Hall, Richard A. Wilson Fannie Matthews, Maggie Webb, Rose Tull, Hillary T. Stevenson, John S. McMaster, William S. Dix, Emma Robinson, Ella Scott, Rose Marshall and Sally Henderson. The school is graded into primary, grammar and High School departments, and is at present taught by the principal and five assistant teachers, who are infusing a spirit into their scholars, to excel.

There have already gone out, from this school, young men well qualified for any position to which any of the various callings of life might invite them. Some are ministers, some physicians, some lawyers and some teachers. While there are others filling the most important places of trust and responsibility in business life. Many of the young ladies, who have graduated at this school, are teaching various schools in this and the adjoining county.

I shall close the subject of the High School and the grand work it is performing, by giving a brief sketch of the principal and teachers, or make such remarks in regard to them as I may be able. The Rev. Joseph L. Polk, was born near Princess Anne, in Somerset County, Md and was educated in the academy of that place, and at Jefferson College, Penn. After graduating at the latter place with honor, the degree of A. M. was conferred upon him. He then commenced teaching school in Dorchester County, Md; but feeling that he was called to preach the

gospel, he entered the theological seminary at Princeton, N. J., where he remained for two years, when he received a unanimous call to become the Pastor of the Pitts Creek, Presbyterian Church at New Town, Md. To this work he gave his earnest and ardent efforts, and was very successful.

When the New Town High School was established in its new and handsome buildings, Mr. Polk desirous of seeing the cause of education placed upon a higher and more advanced plane, was induced to apply for the position of principal, to which he was appointed by the County Board of School Commissioners. For this position he was peculiarly fitted, having a deep interest in the young, and being a natural educator and fond of the work, and withal a man of large public spirit, he entered upon this work with energy and zeal. Being aided by a competent corps of teachers, this school was at once placed in the front rank and was soon recognized as the best organized and most successful school on the Eastern Shore. Parents from the adjoining counties and some from a distance recognized the character of the school, and wishing to have their children under its instruction, availed themselves of this opportunity, and the school increased in numbers until over three hundred pupils names were on the school registers. Then it became necessary to enlarge the corps of teachers and two or three more assistants were added. To Rev. Joseph L. Polk the citizens of Pocomoke City and vicinity owe more perhaps than they are aware of,

for while the work of education went gradually on without ostentation or display on his part, it is a fact that whatever success has attained by and through this institution, it is due largely to his ability and to his wise and judicious management in the organization and conduct of the school. As a minister he was popular and greatly beloved by his church. After serving them faithfully for seventeen years he was urged to take charge of the Academy at Newark, Del., and he felt constrained by a sense of duty to his growing family to resign his charge and accept the proffered position. Mr. Wm. N. Page succeeded Mr. Polk as principal of the High School. He, however, only remained one year in that position. He was a native of Virginia; he had a fine education and was a high-toned Christian gentleman. After resigning the position he returned to Virginia again.

In 1872, Mr. Richard K. Wimbrough succeeded Mr. Page in the principalship of the High School and held that position for three years. Richard Kelly Wimbrough, the son of a respectable farmer, was born in Accomac County, Va., in the year 1843. At an early age he lost both of his parents and came under the guardian care of Mr. Nehemiah W. Nock, a farmer and merchant of Mappsville in Accomac County. This gentleman took young Mr. Wimbrough to live with him, treated him with great kindness and sent him to school whenever there happened to be any school open near enough for him to attend. At ten years of age he had him apprenticed in Snow Hill,

Md., to learn the trade of a tailor. Nothing was observed at this time either in the young apprentice's conduct or disposition that indicated for himself a career different from that of other boys of his class and circumstances · in other words, it was supposed he would make a tailor simply. But shortly after he acquired a great fondness for reading and developed an earnest disposition to study. From the Academy boys who used to frequent "the shop" and often prepare their lessons there, he obtained books, the boys becoming his teachers. But no time was given him for study; his method was this: While working on the board he would keep his book propped open at his side, at whose jeweled page glancing from time to time he would glean from it the substance his young ambition so much craved. All spare moments, too, were given to study. In winter he would sit up long after "working hours" and often with no other light than that furnished by the door of the store, he would pore over page after page of spelling, English grammar, arithmetic, geography or history, regardless of the lateness of the hour or the labors of the ensuing day. In this way these studies were successfully pursued and that foundation laid upon which was based afterwards, effected by the same unremitting toil and diligence, a fine classical education.

In the meantime occurred an event which would have been of the greatest benefit to Mr. Wimbrough if his influence toward securing it had been equal to the measure of his deserving it. A free Scholarship became vacant in

Washington College, a state institution situated at Chester-town. It was to be filled by a competitive examination of the candidates. Many of young Wimbrough's friends being desirous that he should become a candidate and promising aid to secure his release from his indentures if he should be successful, he applied for the position. The contestants came from the several academies of the county, fresh from their books and their teacher's instructions; young Wimbrough came from "the shop." But by some ill luck, although it was known that the result of his examination was not inferior, he did not receive the appointment. It was a sad blow to his hopes, but did not check his ardent eagerness for learning. He went back to "the shop" and his books, to try again. Another opportunity might occur, he would be prepared the next time. But no such ever occurred: his college goal had to be reached by means wholly of his own making. These efforts, directed in the way I have described, could not fail to attract notice and win friends. His intimate associates were the more advanced students among the academy boys, who now one, now another had been mainly, his teachers. The older men, too, often spoke kind and encouraging words. But his most valuable friend was found in Mr. Sewell T. Milbourn, a young man of superior talents and of high social position, who had recently returned to Snow Hill, from Dickinson College where he had graduated with distinction. This young man became his friend and teacher, inspiring him by his

own learning and giving time and personal care to his instructions. The influence of this connection was of the greatest service to young Wimbrough, as it enabled him to pursue those higher branches,—Latin and Greek, algebra, geometry and higher English, which he was soon to turn to a practical use. In 1859, his health broke down, so that he was unable either to work or study. A plan was therefore arranged by which he might purchase the remaining years of his apprenticeship. With some means he had in his guardian's hands this was done; after which he was free to pursue his studies exclusively. But for a long time he remained delicate and was unable to make much progress. In 1861, Mr. Milbourn removed to Cambridge, Dorchester County to practice law. Thither, the next year, Mr. Wimbrough, now a young man of nineteen, followed, and engaged in the teaching of a private school, in which he was so successful that after a year and a half he was elected principal of the Cambridge Academy. In this he was equally successful, but resigned after two years to take charge of a government office connected with the Internal Revenue; engaging at the same time in conducting a newspaper, the *Cambridge Herald*, of which he was both proprietor and editor. In 1867, having disposed of his paper, he went to Dickinson College, where he entered the Junior class thereby graduating in two years. As an evidence of how well he had studied in former years, besides the fact that he was able to pass over the first two years of the college course, he was noted in College



for his accurate knowledge of the English language and unusual proficiency for a student, in Latin; on account of which he was allowed optional attendance in that department during the whole of the junior year. He was graduated a Bachelor of Arts in 1869, and took the Master's degree three years after. Since graduating, Mr. Wimbrough has engaged mosly in teaching.

He was elected principal of the New Town High School in 1872, continuing in the same till 1875, a period of three years. Afterwards he was principal of the Snow Hill High School for four years. As an instructor Mr. Wimbrough is thorough, earnest and capable. From his life gleams this great truth: "Honor and fame from no condition rise: act well your part; there all the honor lies."

Rev. Joseph L. Polk succeeded Mr. Wimbrough in the High School and continued in the position until 1877, when he resigned, and was succeeded by Dr. Sidney W. Handy.

Dr. Handy was appointed principal of the High School in Pocomoke City in the fall of 1877 and has continued in that position to the present. Dr. Sidney W. Handy was born in Somerset County, Md., on the 4th day of October, 1845. He was educated partly in his native county and at the Columbian College in Washington, D. C., at which latter place he went through a four years college course and graduated in 1868. He attended the first course of lectures in medicine at the University of Virginia in 1869

and 1870, and the second at the Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia. Penn., graduating in 1872. Dr. Handy, although a graduate in medicine, has never practiced his profession, choosing rather the position of an educator as being more in accordance with his intellectual taste. In his wise and judicious management of the High School he is meeting the highest expectations of the Trustees and Board of Education who have placed him there, and is at once a scholar and a Christian gentleman.

## CHAPTER XXIX.

## SCHOOLS (CONTINUED.)

Mrs. Nettie O'Daniel was a native of Wilmington, Del., where she received a liberal public school education, and taught in the public schools of that city and in Pocomoke City High School, in Wyoming College, Del., and in Colorado. Mrs. O'Daniel was a lady of fine accomplishments and showed herself to great advantage in the school room as an educator.

Miss Mary M. Hearn was also one of the first assistants in the High School. She was born in New Town, Md., on the 16th day of July, 1848. She went to school until she was fifteen years of age, after that she was educated by her father, Dr. John L. Hearn, at home. She was well qualified as a teacher and taught in the High School for nine years, when her health compelled her, by incessant application, to resign her position. Indeed, her feeble constitution was so worn down that although she continued teaching until vacation, then she yielded shortly after to the inevitable and passed away. Her death occurred Aug. 24th, 1875. Miss Hearn had a fine mind and an amiable disposition. She was raised right and adorned her name with a life worthy of imitation.

Charles H. Council, Esq., is a native of Southampton County, Va. He was educated at Richmond College, Virginia, and at Columbian College, D. C., at which latter place he graduated. He taught school ten years in Virginia before he came to this county. After coming here he taught two years at McMaster's School-house, two years at Pitt's Creek School-house, and has been engaged in the High School for about nine years, in which he is still engaged teaching.

Mrs. Millie Primrose, daughter of Thomas F. Stevenson, Esq., was born at Snow Hill, Md., and was educated at the Academy of that place. In 1869, she entered the High School of Pocomoke City as teacher of a primary class, and continued in that capacity until 1873; when she succeeded Miss Eudora E. Hay in the grammar class, and has continued teacher of that room until the present.

Mrs. Primrose is a lady of fine accomplishments and an efficient teacher. As an evidence of her efficiency, I will mention the fact, that she has been teaching in the High School in Pocomoke City for thirteen years, nine years of which she has been in charge of the Grammar School Department without a rival for the position. An interesting item of rare occurrence, in connection with Mrs. Primrose is here inserted. She is a member of a family of five persons, representing five generations, and each one being the first born of each generation; their state and ages are as follows: Great Grand Father, 86; Grand Father, 66; Grand Mother, 64; Mother, 42; Son,

17; their ages aggregating 276 years, all living in the same house, and all enjoying good health.

John W. Murray succeeded Mrs. O'Daniel as teacher of the grammar school department in the High School of Pocomoke City. He was born in New Town, Worcester County, Md., on the 13th day of November, 1848. From his infancy he was delicate in health. He was educated at the Academy and High School of Pocomoke City, and at Dickinson College, Carlisle, Penn. He had an ambition to excel; he was studious and with a close application, made great progress in learning. He not only studied at school, but at home; also, he was the last member of the family to retire at night, and the first to arise in the morning poring over his books. John was also a lover of home, and never seemed happier than when in the society of his mother. Touching remembrances of him come up before me as I write this article, which brings the tear unbidden from its place. Frequently in the family we would be discussing the subject of the hard struggles for an honorable livelihood, and the various casualties to which we might be subjected, when John would exclaim: "Mother," said he, "I intend to take care of you." To illustrate his industry I will mention an incident which has always been a great satisfaction to me.

At a certain commencement, the scholars as was always the case, had their pieces to get by heart against the day of exhibition. On the day appointed the large building was crowded. John's turn came to speak. The piece

assigned him was a declamation of a Roman General before the Roman Senate. As he approached the rostrum the principal remarked to the large audience that "Mr. Murray had only two weeks to translate that speech into English and commit it to memory besides attending to his other regular studies. He made the speech successfully, and in leaving the stand and while walking down the aisle to his seat, I noticed the eyes of all were upon him. I felt prouder that day to be the father of such a young man than the possessor of millions of money. After teaching at Stockton and in the High School in Pocomoke City, he went to Dickinson College to finish his education, for he was ambitious to graduate with nothing short of the highest honors conferred upon a completion of a college course; but here his strength failed him, and he had to give up the struggle. He went to Arkansas to regain his health, but the trip only helped to shorten his days. He came home to his native place and lingered for two years with that fatal disease, Consumption, when, like the evening zephyr that hushes into silence at nightfall, he passed away in hope of a blissful immortality on the 27th day of April, 1873, in the 25th year of his age.

Eulogies have been heaped upon him. After he received his certificate from the School Board of the county the examiner was in Pocomoke City and said he was an honor to his parents and a credit to his native town. One who was associated with him in school and knew well his knowledge of Latin and Greek, said to me that John could

read Latin as fluently as he could read English. The principal of the High School and the president of Dickinson College both spoke to me in high terms of his intellect and his acquirements. His text books of English, Latin, Greek, French and German, which I still keep as reminiscences of him, remind me of the long hours he would be poring over them.

## CHAPTER XXX.

## SCHOOLS (CONTINUED.)

George S. Bell, Esq., was an assistant in the New Town High School. He was born in Northampton County, Va. He was educated at Snow Hill and Pocomoke City, Md., at Newark College, Del., and at the Theological Seminary, Princeton, N. J. He was licensed to preach the gospel by the New Castle Presbytery about the year 1875. He supplied a pulpit in the State of New York and afterward received a call to the Presbyterian Church in Wrightsville, Penn., which he is now acceptably filling. Mr. Bell was a close student, had a good mind and has reflected a credit upon himself in view of his elevation.

Miss Eudora E. Hay succeeded John W. Murray as teacher of the grammar school department in the High School of Pocomoke City, and continued in that relation for two years when she retired, and afterward procured a situation as teacher in the schools of Wilmington, Del.

Ebenezer Hearn was born in New Town, Worcester County, Md., on the 26th day of November, 1854. He commenced going to school at 8 years of age. Left school in July, 1873. Served as an assistant to the principal of the High School in 1874. Engaged in mercantile



business with E. H. Clarke from 1874 to 1877. In 1877, he received an appointment from the Trustees of Rehoboth Academy, in Somerset County, as principal which position he still holds, and that school is recognized by the school board of Somerset County, as one of the best schools in the county. Ebenezer Hearn is a young man in whose favor it would be difficult for me to say too much. His mental, moral and religious qualities are of such a character as to entitle him to the highest praise of all who know him, and to positions of trust and responsibility.

Richard A. Wilson, an assistant to the principal of the High School in Pocomoke City, was a native of Cannonsburg, Penn. He was educated at Jefferson College. He studied law, graduated and removed to Missouri, where he is now practicing law.

Miss Fannie Matthews is a native of Accomac County, Va. Her parents died while she was quite young, and she was taken in charge by her aunt, Miss Jane Porter, who is living in the City of Baltimore, and there in the Western High School she was educated. In 1873, a vacancy being open in the High School of Pocomoke City, Miss Fannie was appointed to fill that vacancy, and, during the seven years of her instructions, which closed up with 1881, she exhibited such wisdom in the instruction of her class, as caused it to be said that her place in the school would be hard to fill. By her adaptation as a teacher she has gained the highest respect of the trustees

of the High School, and as a lady she is known only to be esteemed. There is no one upon whom she has made a more indelible impression in this direction than the principal of the High School. Indeed she contemplated, very seriously, too, a change of name, and finally concluded that she was tired of her old name and would accept of one that was more *handy* and she became the happy bride of Dr. Sidney W. Hardy, principal of the High School of Pocomoke City.

John S. McMaster was born in New Town, on the 29th day of December, 1859. He was educated partly at the High School in Pocomoke City, partly at Newark College, Del., and is finishing his education at Lafayette College, Penn., where he will no doubt graduate with honor. Mr. McMaster is a young man of promise; his aim is the profession of the law as his life work. He will make his mark and be an honor to his name and to his native town. As a teacher in the High School, he acquitted himself with honor.

William S. Dix is a native of Accomac County, Va., but his father moving to Somerset County, Md., he was educated at the Washington Academy, near Princess Anne, and at Dickinson College, Carlisle, Penn. At the time Mr. Dix went to the Washington Academy it was a school of renown, having for its principal the Rev. Francis Waters, D.D., a man of celebrity. After he resigned the Rev. Robert M. Laird, a Presbyterian minister, was appointed principal in his place, having the Hon. Isaac D.

Jones for an assistant. Mr. Dix engaged as teacher in the High School of New Town in 1875, and for six consecutive years he continued in that capacity, when at the close of the school term in 1881, he retired from the school. Mr. Dix is a man of high moral worth and he has the respect of all who know him as a christian gentleman.

Hilary T. Stevenson and Dr. Julius T. Hall were teachers in the New Town High School, but as I have taken notice of them under another heading, I shall here pass them by.

The Misses Maggie Webb, Rose Tull, Emma Robinson, Ella Scott, Rose Marshall and Sallie Henderson were all good and efficient teachers. The last three named are still teaching in the High School. In closing up this account of the High School in Pocomoke City I will state that there are on the school roll in regular attendance 235 scholars.

I have failed to notice heretofore two of our young men of promise and consequently will have to notice them here.

Edward J. Clarke, son of Littleton T. Clarke, deceased, was born in New Town on the 1st day of September, 1860. After the death of his father, which event occurred when he was but six years of age, the Rev. John W. Pierson being an intimate friend of his father and taking a liking to the youth, by the consent of his mother, took him into his own family and under his own guardian care to raise and educate him. He remained with Mr. Pierson until he was sixteen years of age, during which time he was schooled

at the Academy in Snow Hill and Pocomoke City High School. At the age of sixteen he entered St. John's College, Annapolis, Md., where he remained five years. At the age of twenty-one he graduated, standing well up in his class. After this he taught school at Whaleyville, Worcester County, Md., one year. He is now employed as teacher in the High School of Pocomoke City. Mr. Clarke is a young man of promise and with application will make his mark.

Austin H. Merrill, son of William H. S. Merrill, was born in New Town on the 1st day of June, 1859. He was a student in the High School of this place until he was eighteen years of age, at which time he entered the Delaware College at New Ark, Del. His education at this period was sufficient to justify his entering the Sophomore Class. He graduated with the first honor, taking the degree of A. B., and chosen valedictorian of his class. He taught school two years as principal of the Temperanceville Graded School. He then entered the National School of Elocution and Oratory in Philadelphia, Penn., where he graduated with honor. Mr. Merrill is just entering the arena of public life, having in contemplation the law as his life work, and with application on his part and no unforeseen event happening to blast the fond hopes of his friends, he will, it is anticipated, be the peer of the first jurists of Maryland and of whom his friends and the citizens of Pocomoke City have just cause to feel proud.

The school for the education of colored children in Pocomoke City was established directly after the free

school system became a law in the State. This school has been kept up ever since, and is to-day a graded school of primary and grammar school departments. There are on the school roll 117 scholars. The school is taught by a principal and one assistant. These teachers are quite efficient and the school is advancing.

The principal, David W. Ogden, is a native of New Jersey. He attended a primary and grammar school in that State until he was sixteen years of age, when he entered Lincoln University, in Chester County, Penn. After applying himself closely for five years, he graduated with honor in 1880.

The following is the basis upon which the colored school is sustained. The school receives from the county the proportion of county taxes paid by the colored people in the county, which amounts to about eleven cents on the one hundred dollars. In addition to this the State makes a special appropriation of \$100,000 annually for all the schools throughout the State, of which Worcester County receives about \$3,600.

## CHAPTER XXXI.

## CHURCHES.

As the churches are a very important factor in the history of Pocomoke City, it will be necessary, in order to give an intelligent showing of each church, to take them up in the order of time in which they were established, and bring their history down to the present time. As the Methodist Episcopal Church is the first one of which we have any record, we will begin with it first. But before we proceed with the history of this church it will be necessary and proper to remark that it has been said that there was a Presbyterian log church built on the lot which was called, when I was a boy, the *Sacher* lot. This was a nickname for Zachariah, as it belonged to one Zachariah Lambertson. This lot has been more recently known as the Adreon lot, which at present belongs to William J. S. Clarke. Upon this lot *tradition says* this house was built.

In the history of the Maryland Colony we have this record, that a certain Col. William Stevens, with others, got up a petition and sent it to the Presbytery of Laggan, Ireland, in 1680, for a minister of the gospel to come to the colony and preach the gospel and look after the scattered

adherents of the Presbyterian faith. This call was promptly obeyed, and in 1682, they sent over the Rev. Francis Makemie, a man of learning, sagacity and courage, by whom or under whose supervision, *tradition says* this church was built. If this tradition can be relied on, there is no doubt, but that it was the first Presbyterian Church ever built in America.

But there is a history of the Presbyterian Church in America extant, which would seem to refute the statement of the *Traditional Church*.

I allude to the history of the Presbyterian Church in America, by Irving Spence, a member of that church and a *learned Lawyer*, who speaks definitely and clearly of the Pitt's Creek and Rehoboth Churches being the first Presbyterian Churches ever built in America. He never once intimates that such a church ever existed as the *Traditional Church at New Town*.

There is, however, some supposable ground for the existence of this church. Mr. Makemie, in coming to the Colony and up the Pocomoke River, prospecting, may have at first view, concluded that this was the very place to commence operations, and hence, the erection of the log church; but subsequently, he may have discovered that, Rehoboth and Pitt's Creek were prominent centers, at which he could more effectually advance the interests of his cause, and hence, the abandonment of the *old log church*.

Now to proceed with the history of the Methodist Episcopal Church in New Town. The Church was built in 1808, on the site where the present one stands. But the church, proper as an organized body, existed in New Town, long years before the house was built. This fact, I think can be established, beyond a doubt, by two considerations. First, the preachers sent to the Continent by Mr. Wesley, before the organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in 1784, and those belonging to it afterwards, operated in New York City, Philadelphia, the states of New Jersey, Delaware, and some of them down through the Eastern Shore Counties of Maryland and Virginia, and so efficient was their preaching that, at an early date the Peninsula was a garden spot of Methodism. Indeed the gospel was like a sally of light coming down the Peninsula, and its messengers were flaming heralds entering every open door, and preaching unto the people, Jesus and the resurrection, with all boldness.

In 1778, Francis Asbury, not being permitted to preach the gospel in Maryland, retired to Delaware, where, at the house of Judge White, he found a congenial retreat, for about two years, in order to escape impressment, by the British forces, to fight against the colonies. In 1780, Freeborn Garrettson a native of Western Maryland, was imprisoned in Cambridge jail, Dorchester County, for preaching the gospel. I mention these incidents of Asbury and Garrettson, with their dates to show that Methodism was already a settled fact in Delaware, and



on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia. I cannot wonder at the success of the gospel, when its message was borne by such men as Bishops Thomas Coke D. D. Francis Asbury, Richard Whatcoat, and their associates, such as Freeborn Garrettson, Benjamin Abbott, Lorenzo Dow, and a host of others who were co-laborers with them, who counted not their lives dear into themselves so that they might bear the gospel message and be instrumental in saving sinners.

The second, consideration is the establishment of the circuit work, embracing preaching appointments at Littleton Long's house, where Major Merrill now lives; at William Melvin's, father of Rev. Avra Melvin, where Col. William J. Aydelotte now lives, and at Capt. James Furnis' house in New Town; this house is at present, owned by Mrs. Tipton.

At these places the gospel was preached, classes formed and prayer-meetings established. So early and so thoroughly was Methodism established in New Town, that in 1800, Avra Melvin was licensed to preach the gospel, being at the time about twenty years of age, and when his father, who was an officer in the church, died, he preached his funeral.

Not only New Town but, the entire surrounding country was brought under the influence of Methodism in the latter part of the last century, so that we may safely conclude that the date of its introduction in New Town reaches back to about 1790. Some account of the

pioneer Methodist preachers on the peninsula may be interesting to the reader. But as there are biographies of each one of them extant, it will only be necessary to make some passing remarks with some incidents of their lives.

Thomas Coke, LL.D., was a native of England, a man of letters. Was ordained the first bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He died at sea while on a missionary tour to another land at the probable age of sixty years. Bishop Asbury, in preaching his funeral by request of Conference, makes the following remarks of him: "He was of the third branch of Oxonian Methodists, a gentleman, a scholar, and a bishop to us, and as a minister of Christ, in zeal, in labors and in services, the greatest man of the last century."

Richard Whatcoat, bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church was a native of England. Upon information of his death Bishop Asbury makes the following note of him in his journal: "That father in Israel and my faithful friend for forty years, a man of solid parts: a self-denying man of God: who ever heard him speak an idle word? when was guile found in his mouth? He had been thirty-eight years in the ministry: sixteen years in England, Wales and Ireland, and twenty-two years in America; twelve years as Presiding Elder, four of this time he was stationed in the cities or traveling with me; and six years in the superintendency. A man so uniformly good I have not known in Europe or America. He died in Dover, Del., on the 5th day of July, 1806."

Francis Asbury was also a native of England. He came to this country by the direction of Mr. Wesley in 1771, being then about 25 years of age. He was elected Bishop at the conference of 1784, held in the city of Baltimore, and was emphatically and truly, the pioneer Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In labors more abundant, traveling on horseback and in carriage, averaging a great deal of the time 5,000 miles a year, his route extending from Georgia to Massachusetts, and as far West as Kentucky and Ohio. He pursued this route through heat and cold, through rain and storm, in winter and summer, over hills, barrens, swamps, and Savannahs, fording rivers, creeks, etc., for thirty-two years in the Episcopacy until he was literally worn out by his arduous labors superintending the interests of the Church of Christ. In 1816, while on his way to the General Conference, to be held in the City of Baltimore in the following May, he halted at the house of George Arnold in Spottsylvania, Va., and there he died on the 21st day of March, 1816, in the 71st year of his age. He was afterward carried to Baltimore and buried under the pulpit of the Eutaw Methodist Episcopal Church of that city.

In speaking of Benjamin Abbott I will say he was a native of New Jersey, and although he may never have preached in New Town, yet he aided very materially in bringing the gospel down through the peninsula. He was a man of great pulpit power, and in many instances sinners fell prostrate under the preaching of the word by him, as dead men.

There is only one incident of his life which I wish to mention and that is the circumstance of his conversion. It was brought about by a dream. He was already under deep conviction for sin. He had no rest day or night and seemingly could find none. While in this condition he dreamed that he was down a deep well; how he got there he could not tell. In contemplating his condition, he saw no way of his escape. He seemed hopelessly lost. In casting his eyes upward he saw a star, about which there was peculiar attraction. While looking at it he discovered himself rising out of the well. It was such a strange phenomenon he could not understand it; and in looking down the well, that moment he fell to the bottom. However, in looking up again he saw the same star, and while looking at it, he discovered that he was rising again this time higher; but some how or other he took his eyes off the star, and down he fell to the bottom again. In this sad condition he concluded there must be some power in that star to bring him out of the well, and if he could but see that star once more, he never would take his eyes off of it until he would be out of the well. Fortunately, again he saw the same star. He fixed his eyes upon it, and he felt that he was rising, but he would not take his eyes off of it until he found himself entirely out of the well. At that moment he awoke out of sleep and concluded that that dream was from God, and was intended to point him to the Day Star from on high. He made the application and found Jesus without further trouble. He was con-

verted immediately and awoke the family, and there was a great shout that night.

The incredulous may say, oh, pshaw; that was only a dream. It was a dream, that is true, but it was more than a dream in the common acceptation of that term. It was the instrumentality which the Holy One used to save his soul. Lorenzo Dow preached in New Town in 1805, to about 2000 people, assembled from all the country around, and at night he preached at Rev. Jas. Tilghman's house. After he had conducted the preliminary services and had read out the text, Captain Harry Long came into the congregation and after he had taken his seat, Lorenzo said, "Captain my text is "Pray without ceasing and in every thing give thanks." The fact of his giving Capt. Long his title, without having any previous knowledge of him, produced a wonderful thinking in the minds of the audience; for they had previously heard that Lorenzo could foretell future events, and was a discernor of spirits.

There are only two incidents in the life of Lorenzo that I will here mention. The first is his courtship and marriage. On a certain preaching tour, he made the acquaintance of the lady whom he afterwards married. The courtship is as follows: he said to her' "I think you will suit me for a wife, and as I am going to such and such places to preach, and shall be gone such a length of time, you can think the matter over, and if you think you would like me for a husband, when I return we will get

married. But, one thing must be clearly understood, and that is, you must never get in my way in preaching the gospel, for if you do I shall pray to the Lord to take you out of the way and I believe he will do it, and upon his return they got married.

The second incident is the tin horn story, which is as follows: He was going to fill an appointment which he had made, probably a year before. When he was nearing the place where he had to preach, he over-took a colored boy with a tin horn; he asked him his name, the boy said his name was Gabriel. Lorenzo said to him: "I am going to such a place to preach to-day, and if you will go there and climb up into a tall pine tree, and remain' there silent until I call for Gabriel to blow the trumpet, then if you will blow one of your loudest blasts, I will give you a dollar." The bargain was made, and Lorenzo commenced the services and took his text, which embraced the idea of the Resurrection and the general Judgment.

As he proceeded, in unfolding the awful truths contained in the text, in graphic style, holding his large audience, which was assembled in the grove, spell-bound, and as all eyes were upon him while contemplating the sublime majesty of Christ's coming in the clouds of heaven with ten thousands of His saints to judge the world. When he had reach the climax, and had Gabriel standing one foot upon the sea and the other on the dry land, with his long silver trumpet, he called aloud for Gabriel to blow, at that moment, Gabriel in the pine tree, blew the tin horn.

The scene as portrayed by eye witnesses was indescribable. The people were in utter consternation, some falling to the ground and crying for mercy, while others were shouting salvation, in the immediate prospect of standing before the Throne, and the horses were squealing and prancing. Finally the congregation discovered the boy in the pine tree and became composed. When Lorenzo then said, if the blowing of a tin horn by a little black boy in the top of a pine tree could produce such an effect, what would they do when the great day comes?

## CHAPTER XXXII.

## CHURCHES (CONTINUED.)

But to return to the subject of the church at New Town, I have already said, the house was built in 1808, on the site of the present one. Its dimensions were 30 by 32 feet. It had three galleries, two side and one end gallery. Its pulpit was of the old style of the Episcopal Church pulpits. At first, its benches were thick planks, laid on blocks of wood; but in process of time it had benches with backs to lean against. The church had three doors, one side door leading out into the grave yard, and two end doors; one for the white people to enter the church, and the other one for the colored people to go up into the galleries. There were eleven windows in the church, seven below and four above, those below were one-half sash and glass, the other half were wooden slides, and those above were all wooden slides. There was one old style box stove in it, which was given to the church by Miss Rosa B. Schoolfield, afterwards, Mrs. Rosa B. Quinn, wife of Rev. William Quinn.

The church was neither lathed nor plastered for thirty years. In its erection, some gave lumber, some work and others money. I have seen the old subscription book for



the erection of the church, and in looking it over my heart has been cheered in reading the name of Michael Murray, my father as a subscriber to build the Methodist Episcopal Church in New Town, he being a Roman Catholic. The reader will remember, that according to the limits given to New Town, that this church was in the suburbs. After it was ready for divine service, the appointments at the private houses were abandoned, and preaching was held every two weeks at the church. Of this church, Bishop Asbury, thus speaks in his journal, under date of April 11th, 1810: "I preached at New Town; we were crowded. This is a flourishing little place, and we have a beautiful little chapel."

As this was the only house of worship in the place for several miles around, great assemblages of people would attend divine service, especially on quarterly meeting occasions.

The church would be crowded to its utmost capacity and more people outside listening and looking in through the windows and doors than were in the house, and the thickets in the neighborhood of the church would be full of horses hitched. At such times the Presiding Elder would preach. In the order of time there were such men as Dr. Chandler, Lawrence Lawrenson and Henry White. These men had great pulpit power. The subject selected would be one of the most felicitous in the Gospels. As the minister would proceed and be in his happiest mood and fired with his subject, responses of loud amens and hallelujahs

would be heard in the congregation, and especially in the amen corner. Before the services closed strong men, who did not make any profession of religion, would be bathed in tears, and others crying for mercy, while Christians were shouting salvation, and the whole scene would impress the thought of the shout of the King in the camp of Israel. The first class was formed about 1790 or shortly afterwards. The names that were enrolled upon that first class-book were as follows: Littleton Long and wife, Wm. Melvin and wife, William Merrill and wife, Geo. Houston and wife, Rosa Merrill, Avra Melvin, Joshua Sturgis and wife, Nancy Sturgis, Levin Mills, Polly Blades, Samuel Blades and wife, Susan Ward, James Tilghman and wife, Nancy Blades, Hannah Benson, Joseph Young and wife, James Dickinson, Sr., and wife, Jemima Henderson, Ibba Chapman and Nathan Milbourn. These names are very dear to many who are still living in Pocomoke City.

During the year 1800, Avra Melvin was licensed to preach, and in 1808, James Tilghman was licensed to preach and shortly afterward, he was ordained a deacon. A little incident in relation to Mr. Tilghman is here inserted. Shortly after his ordination, he was called upon to marry a couple in the country. It was his first attempt, and while he was on his way thitherward, he stepped a side from the road into the woods and selecting two trees representing the parties before him, he went through the ceremony, after which he went on his way to the place of destination and united the parties, applying,

in marriage. Rev. James Tilghman was the father of Mrs. Mary Cottingham of Snow Hill, Md., he died in 1816, aged 34 years. His tombstone is still standing in the Methodist Episcopal Church burying ground of Pocomoke City and bears the above date.

In reviewing the religious condition of New Town, as late as 1820, it may be of interest to notice its denominational status. There were only two Presbyterian families in the place. There were no Baptists here then. There was one old lady by the name of Elizabeth Matthews, who was a member of the Protestant Episcopal Church at Dividing Creek; this old lady would be seen on Sunday morning wending her way to Dividing Creek, to church.

A little humorous story is here recorded about Aunt Betty, that was the name we used to call her by. Aunt Betty used to raise geese. At the usual time of picking the feathers off the geese, she picked the down also off both geese and goslings. There came a sharp snap of cold weather the night following, and next morning Aunt Betty's geese and goslings were all dead. She went over to the neighbour's to make her tale of sorrow known. Said she in a whining tone, "child, what do you think? I picked my geese yesterday, and to-day they are all dead." After telling how she picked them, the lady remarked: "Ah! Aunt Betty that is the way, crave all and loose all."

There was another family in the town which was Roman Catholic, that family was my father's. He was educated a Roman Catholic in Ireland, his native country. My

mother was raised a Methodist. I am happy to say, however, though my father was a Roman Catholic, yet he was a liberal one, for he helped to build the Methodist Episcopal Church in New Town, and had his children baptized by Protestant ministers. He would hold family prayers on Sunday mornings, and teach his children the duty of private prayer. The prayers that he used to teach us, would be the Lord's prayer; the Apostle's Creed, the salutation and invocation to the Holy Virgin, Mary, etc. All others in the town who professed Christianity, were Methodists, and there was a goodly number of them too.

In the early history of Methodism in New Town, putting up places for the preachers would be scarce. The members of the church were, almost without an exception, poor and had no accommodations for the preacher and his horse. As a general thing there was not more than one place at which they could stop and find entertainment. The preacher in charge lived in Snow Hill and the assistant preacher lived with the several Methodist families on the circuit. They would come here on Saturday afternoon, stay until after dinner on Sabbath, and then go to their afternoon appointments. This condition of things existed as late as the writer's own personal knowledge, and foremost among those who bore the burden and stood by the Church in its low estate was Jesse Long, who not only entertained the preachers, but would bear the greater part, if not all of the expenses of light and fuel for the church. He would collect the quarterage money, and go

out among the citizens of the town and ask contributions for the support of the preacher. He was the mainstay of the church in New Town until he died, which event took place in 1845. He was buried in the Methodist Episcopal Church burying-ground in New Town, at the age of 52 years, as his tombstone bears the above date.

In the early history of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and as late as the writer's own personal knowledge, the amount of quarterage paid to the preachers by the church in New Town was fifteen dollars and twenty-five cents per quarter, or sixty one dollars per year, and as this was the only church in the place, until 1832, the amount of money paid for the support of the gospel, by New Town, was sixty one dollars per year. About the year 1835, accessions were made to the church, which was the result of revival meetings, among others was the Rev. John D. Long, who was a young man of prominence. His father and mother died before he reached his majority, and upon him devolved the responsible task of taking care of two sisters and a brother younger than himself. At this time he was merchandising at Steven's Ferry in Somerset County, on the lot of ground where the Phosphate factory now stands. After conducting this business until about 1837, he gave it up and commenced teaching school in Nassawaddux, at Williams' school-house, where he continued until the close of 1838.

In the spring of 1839, he joined the Philadelphia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Subsequently

he married Miss Sarah Caulk of New Castle County, Delaware; a young lady of fine intellect and culture, by whom he has four sons, all grown men. Mr. Long was always delicate in health, and had been in the traveling ministry only about nine years, when his health was so broken down that he was compelled to take a superannuated relation. In that capacity he has remained until the present time. During the intervening years he became the author of a book called "Pictures of Slavery." For sixteen years he was missionary of Bedford Street Mission in Philadelphia. That position he resigned in April, 1882, and in order to show the value of his services and the esteem in which he was held during that long time of service, I will here insert an appreciative resolution by the Board of Managers of that institution, which was unanimously adopted.

"The Rev. Mr. Long having tendered his resignation as superintendent of the mission, a position he has held for the past sixteen years, the Board of Managers hereby accept it. They do so, however, with sincere regret, as well for the separation it involves as for the cause (Mr. Long's increasing bodily weakness) that compels it. And they would place on record, in connecting with their action, the expression of their high regard and thanks to Mr. Long for his uniformly wise and faithful administration of the mission during his long term of service in it; for his personal worth, which secured for it so largely the confidence and support of our citizens; for his con-

sistent life and just and kindly course towards all with whom his work brought him in contact, by which he won their affection and respect, and (as the result of all) for the good name in the possession of which he now leaves the mission. They earnestly wish for him all possible benefit from the rest he has well earned and which he so much needs, and hope he may be long spared to enjoy it."

The above resolution I copy from the *Philadelphia Evening Bulletin* of Saturday, February 11th, 1882. This resolution of the Board of Bedford Street Mission is eulogy enough, but I will add that I have known him from his infancy, and most intimately for forty-five years, and I must say that he has the highest sense of moral rectitude and is one of the most conscientiously just men I have known. He, now in all probability, has done his last work, and has returned to this his native place to rest.

## CHAPTER XXXIII.

## CHURCHES (CONTINUED.)

In 1836, Rev. William Quinn settled on his farm adjoining New Town. He was born in Queen Anne's County, Md., about the year 1790. On his father's side he was of pure Celtic blood, as his name will indicate. At about fifteen years of age he embraced Christianity and joined the Methodist Episcopal Church. He was apprenticed to learn the carriage-making business, but it was discovered that his talent and inclination led in another direction. After his majority he joined the Philadelphia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He traveled several years and then took a supernumerary relation and located in Princess Anne, Md., where he commenced the carriage-making business, having for a partner Teagle Townsend. He afterwards moved to Eastville, Va., where he carried on the carriage-making business for a few years and then came to New Town, Md.

In 1840, he took an active relation to his conference, for during the time of his location he sustained a supernumerary relation. He traveled five years and finally retired from the active ministry.



During his long so-journ with us, the writer had ample opportunity to know and form his conclusions of him. His intellect was beyond the common order of minds. In his preaching he was clear and forcible, and was good in debate. In his social life, he was of a genial nature, frank and pleasant; if there was one trait of his character that towered above the rest, it was that of forgiveness. The writer can speak from experience upon this feature of his character. When times were perilous, and debate was rife, and sharp cutting words would be used on both sides; but, when we would meet again, there would be exhibited that same genial, frank and social bearing as though nothing had happened.

He was thrice married, and was father of John W. Quinn by his first wife, James, William and Lawrence by his second wife, and Doctor Samuel S. Quinn and Mrs. Virginia Merrill, surviving children by his last wife. During his last sickness he was hopeful and trusting. He died in the latter part of 1867, approximating four score years.

In 1840, the old church was lathed and plastered and became more comfortable, and things in general began to look up somewhat. In 1855, the present commodious house was built; it cost, probably, three thousand dollars. This church has a large cemetery. The Sabbath School belonging to this church is the mother of Sabbath Schools in Pocomoke City. Some of the most influential men of other churches in Pocomoke City were, when little boys, members of this Sabbath School. It is in quite

a flourishing condition, having on the school roll the names of one hundred scholars, and an average of seventy in actual attendance. The school takes eighty Sabbath School papers weekly and has 138 volumes in library. The reader will observe that I have not said anything about the long list of the sainted dead, who were members of this church. But I will now say that as a general thing they died well. Oh! how many, during the last forty five years, have I visited in their death sickness, and have heard the last shout of victory, and witnessed their triumphant death. Prominent among this long list of the dead, with whom the writer was most intimately acquainted, was Sally Murray, James E. Quinn, Eljabeth Long, first wife of Jesse Lee Long, and daughter of Genl. Ebenzer Hearn, Amanda C. Clarke, first wife of William J. S. Clarke, Harriet H. Clarvoe, mother of Amanda C. Clarke, Harriet Taylor, grandmother of the children of John H. Clarke by his first wife and Sally E. Hearn. The remembrance of these persons is held very sacred and dear by many who are yet living in Pocomoke City. These were God's noble children. They are now before the throne clothed in white robes and bear palms of victory in their hands. Oh! how pleasant it is to call up in memory the christian fellowship with such persons, during their life time and while standing around their dying beds and witnessing their triumphant exit from a world of sorrow, to the home of the blest on the other side of the river.

To close up the history of the Methodist Episcopal Church in New Town and not give a list in detail of its ministers would be, to say the least of it, a partial history. I shall, therefore, give as correct a list of their names as I am able. I shall first name the Bishops, then the Presiding Elders, and lastly the traveling preachers.

The Bishops were: Francis Asbury, Beverly Waugh, Edmund S. James, D.D., and Levi Scott, D.D.

The Presiding Elders were: Dr. Chandler, Lawrence Lawrenson, Henry White, David Daily, Levi Scott, D.D., Jas. A. Massey, John D. Onins, Thos. J. Thompson, D.D., Henry Colclazer, Adam Wallace, D.D., Solomon Cooper, Vaughn Smith, John L. Taft, N. M. Brown and Thomas J. Williams.

The traveling preachers were: Lorenzo Dow, ——— Bayne, Avra Melvin, John Collins, Matthew Sorin, D.D., ——— Lummas, ——— Sparks, William Connally, John A. Roach, D.D., Samuel McElwee, James L. Houston, William Quinn, George Lacey, M. D., Isaac R. Willetts, Shepherd Drain, James Hargis, John S. Taylor, Leeds K. Berridge, Charles Karsner, M.D., William Bishop, John Allen, Joshua Turner, Zachariah Webster, Jas. A. Brindle, Charles Schock, Thomas J. Burroughs, Charles Hill, Jonathan Turner, Curtis Turner, Robert Pattison, D.D., Daniel Titlow, William Merrill, John F. Chaplain, D.D., N. W. Bennum, Charles McDermond, Edward G. Erwin, George S. Conway, T. B. Killiam, John W. Pearson, Jas. Miller, Albert Jump, George W. Covington, T. E. Mar-

tindale, James Murray, George D. Watson, D.D., A. A. Fisher, Thomas Poulson, William Potter, George W. Wilcox, E. J. Ayres, A. P. Prettyman, William Passwater, William L. P. Bowen, Thomas O. Ayres, Charles A. Grice, Robert Roe, William I. Baine, John D. C. Hanna and George W. Townsend.

A brief sketch of incidents of some of the above list of preachers, may be of interest to the reader. John Collins was a positive, burly Irishman. He was preaching at a certain place on a certain occasion, and there was a young man in the congregation who stood up during preaching, much to the annoyance of the preacher; Johnnie Collins, for that was his ordinary name, seeing the young man would not sit down, said: "He wished when a tailor made a coat for a man, that he would publish it, and not put the man who wore it to the unnecessary trouble to stand up in the congregation to show it; that had the desired effect and settled the young man for the time being. But when the services were over, and Mr. Collins went to get his horse, where he had hitched him, the young man and his young associates were there waiting for him.

He called Mr. Collins' attention to the insult which he had passed. "O yes!" said Mr. Collins, "are you the young man that stood up in the congregation during preaching?" "Yes," said the young man, "and I am going to whip you for insulting me so." Johnnie Collins said, "I have preached this morning, and have to ride many miles and preach twice more to-day, and it would

be a pity to get a flogging in the bargain." This kind of talk only made the young man more bold, and he told Mr. Collins to get ready for he was going to whip him, "well !" said Mr. Collins, "if I must, I must, but before you begin this business, I want to inform you that, before I embraced Christianity, my name was fighting Jack Collins, and when I became a Christian, I promised the Lord that I would whip the Devil wherever I found him," and with that he brushed up his sleeves and said, "now come on and I will whip every devil of you." The fight was then over without a blow, and Mr. Collins mounted his horse and rode off.

Another incident is related of Mr. Collins to the following effect. He was leading a colored class, which met on Sunday mornings before preaching, when he called Jacob so and so ; before this, however, he was informed that Jacob had stolen a pair of breeches, "Jacob" said he, "let us hear how you are getting along ?" Jacob said, "my breathering, I-s-e come here to give in my sperience, I've come to tell you that I am sometimes up and sometimes down, but yet my soul is heaven bound, and if you never no more sees me, you may look for me on dat mornin', for I spec's to scale heaven and get to glory." As it was usual to give a word of advice or encouragement after the experience was given ; Mr. Collins said, "Jacob let me feel your pulse ?" Jacob held out his hand and Mr. Collins felt his pulse, when all of a sudden, he exclaimed in a loud tone, "what ! what ! Jacob does your pulse beat breeches ? breeches,"

and then addressing himself to all, the class said, "Jacob has been stealing a pair of breeches!"

Lawrence Lawrenson was a man of great pulpit power, and although it has been said that he was most self-distrusting; he was an orator of the first magnitude, and were he living now, he would stand abreast the first pulpit orators of the day. Henry White and David Daily were men of precious memory, though very dissimilar in their make up. Henry White was a positive man, he had no compromise to offer in preaching the gospel; indeed he was the most powerful man in the pulpit, in wielding the Sword of the Spirit that I ever knew. I have witnessed the effect of his preaching, when with streaming eyes and tremulous limbs, he would deliver his message, the most intelligent men of the place would be in tears like little children. David Daily was placid and pleasant, he was a strong preacher, and was also a poet; he was one of the committee who revised the hymn book in years past.

Matthew Sorin was raised and educated a Roman Catholic, and it has been said that he was intended for the priesthood; but when he embraced Christianity he became a traveling preacher in the Methodist Episcopal Church. An incident occurred in relation to him while he traveled Snow Hill circuit (which embraced this place), which is here recorded.

He was preaching at a certain appointment and some of the most aristocratic of the county were to hear him. During the discourse he said something to which excep-

tions were taken by one of the above class. After the services were over this gentleman stood at the door until Mr. Sorin came out. He called his attention to the remark, and said he was going to whip him for it.

They were both large men, standing at least six feet in the clear. If there was any difference in size, I think Mr. Sorin was the lighter of the two; but he was clear built, muscular and plucky. He wore a straight-breasted frock coat that buttoned up to the neck, and when the other told him what he was going to do, he commenced buttoning up his coat until the last button was fastened, when he said to him then: "Sir, it takes a man to whip me." That was the last of it.

He filled some of the best stations in Philadelphia; became an author, and for distinguished talent, he received the degree of Doctor of Divinity. He died but recently, at the probable age of four score years.

In reviewing the history of the Methodist Episcopal Church in New Town, I am authorized in saying that it has been a great power for good. It has given force and strength to moral sentiment, and has reached out a helping hand to the lost and straying and has been instrumental in saving an untold number that otherwise might have been lost. It is the mother of churches in New Town, and like a fostering mother, it has furnished to all its sister churches a member now and then. In its present outlook it has church property, including church, parsonage and cemeteries, amounting to, in original cost and present

improvements, probably \$7,000. It has a membership of ninety members and probationers and a fine Sabbath School, which has already been described.

In taking the past year as a basis in calculating the running expenses of this church, including preacher's salary, conference collections, etc., will amount to something over \$1,100. It holds a very elevated position as a great evangelizing power, and is now, as it has been in the past, like the beacon-light to the ocean-tossed mariner, warning sinners of the breakers and pointing them to the harbor of rest.



## CHAPTER XXXIV.

## CHURCHES (CONTINUED.)

The Methodist Protestant Church was organized in New Town in 1832. The first class formed was composed of Rev. Avra Melvin and wife, Drucilla Powell, Theopilus Powell, Mary Powell, Sarah M. Powell, Comfort Powell, Levin Davis and wife, William Tilghman, George S. Blades, William Payden, Ibba Chapman, Polly Blades, James Blades, Edward Young and wife, Leah Mills and Thomas Melvin. The first preachers sent to the circuit were Revs. Avra Melvin and Stephen Taylor. The first preaching places were the old school-house, Sally Jones's hotel and Rev. Avra Melvin's house on the the farm now belonging to Col. William J. Aydelotte. The class meetings and sacramental services were held at Mr. Melvin's house.

In 1833, the preachers held a camp-meeting on the old Quinton Camp-ground, near Nassawango Creek Bridge. At this camp-meeting the renowned Thomas H. Stockton preached on Sabbath morning. There was a large concourse of people in attendance. After the preliminary service was over the preacher took his text, which embraced the Bible as the subject under consideration.

While he proceeded to unfold and present, in graphic style, the blessedness of God's holy book, all eyes were upon him, for he seemed more like a living skeleton or an angel; he raised the Bible from the stand and folding his skeleton arms around it; he pressed it to his bosom and exclaimed, in the way in which he alone could do it: "God bless the book!" Some of the people were greatly moved, not only by his oratory, but by his ghostly appearance, exclaimed: "God bless the man!" Mr. Stockton was a good man, and an orator of the first magnitude.

In 1834, the society purchased of Sally Jones, the piece of ground where the present church now stands, and also an old store house belonging to John Burnett, which stood at the corner of Market and Second Streets, where Henry King, Esq., now lives, this they moved on the ground they had purchased, and fitted it up to worship in. This house stood for four years, when they sold it and built a new one with a belfry, in which they hung the first church bell in New Town. This house, however, was not what they wanted, it was too small and too temporarily built.

In 1853, they built the present one, and it, though a good building is also too small; and they now have in course of erection, a larger and more commodious temple in a more central part of the city.

The foundation has already been laid, and the laying of the corner stone was conducted with Masonic ceremonies on the 2nd, day of June, 1882. The dimensions of the

church are 40 by 70 feet; the basement is 10 feet between floor and ceiling; the audience room is 20 feet from floor to ceiling. The tower in front is 14 feet square, and its height is 104 feet. It has a recess for pulpit 14 feet front with 5 feet projection. The main audience room is 40 by 60 feet. The church is two stories high; the basement is for sabbath school, class and prayer meeting purposes, and the second story is the audience room for preaching. This church when completed will cost, including the cost of the ground, \$6,000, and will be the finest temple in Pocomoke City. This church has a membership of one hundred and fifty-three, and a flourishing Sabbath school; composed of six officers, eleven teachers and one hundred and two pupils, with an average of sixty in attendance. The School takes one hundred and twenty-five Sabbath school papers, and has two hundred and sixty-eight volumes in the library. The property belonging to this church consists of the church, two parsonages and a cemetery, aggregating a value of \$5,000, and the new church and ground when completed will add \$6,000 more. The whole church property, then, will amount to 11,000 dollars.

The running expenses for this church annually amounts to, including preacher's salary, conference collections, incidental expenses of church and Sabbath School, 765 dollars. It is due the pastor of this church, for me to say that he receives a salary of 700 dollars, but having another appointment at James Town in Somerset County,

that appointment pays 250 dollars of his salary. The preachers who have preached in this church from its organization, in regular succession, are as follows: Revs. Avra Melvin, Stephen Taylor, Geo. D. Hamilton, Elias Williams, Thos G. Clayton, William Sexsmith, A. G. Grove, Reuben T. Boyd, John Keller, John R. Nichols, Henry Miller, Levin A. Collins, A. S. Eversole, John A. Jackson, William Fisher, Johnson C. Davis, Thomas A. Moore, Daniel F. Ewell, William Rienick, Theophilus Burton, R. S. Norris, J. M. Sharpley, J. M. Ellegood, Thomas M. Bryan, C. M. Littleton, B. F. Brown, G. S. May, J. W. Pennewell, James Thomson, C. Eversole, James K. Nichols, L. W. Bates, W. M. Strayer, Henry Nice, C. F. Cochel, Daniel Bowers, J. W. Gray, W. McK. Poisal, J. B. Jones, Jesse Shreeve, W. D. Litsinger, Samuel T. Graham, H. E. Miskiman, Robert S. Rowe, A. T. Melvin, D. L. Greenfield, J. E. Maloy, James T. Lassell, B. F. Benson, J. E. T. Ewell and S. A. Hoblitzell.

In this list of names are some of the ablest ministers of the Maryland Annual conference. The Rev. Avra Melvin was born near New Town, Worcester County, Md., in 1780. He embraced christianity, joined the Methodist Episcopal Church, and in 1800 he was licensed to preach. Some time after this he joined the Philadelphia conference. He traveled several years in the conference and then took a location and settled on the old homestead, where he remained in the capacity of a local preacher until 1832, when the Methodist Protestant Church was organized in

New Town. He was the chief spirit in its organization and for his service in that instance the Methodist Protestant Church in New Town owes more to him than any other man. It has been said of him that he has preached more funeral sermons, performed more marriage ceremonies and baptized more persons, than any other man in this section of the country, in his day. He was a good preacher, had a wonderful memory and consequently had always in store a plenty to say on short notice. He died on his farm near New Town in 1853, in the seventy third year of his age.

L. W. Bates traveled his first year on this circuit, since that date he has filled the best appointments in his conference. He has been president of the Maryland Annual Conference, and president of the General Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church. He has had for distinguished mental abilities and broad culture, the degree of Doctor of Divinity conferred upon him. James K. Nichols is one of the best of men, he is an able preacher, has been president of the Maryland Annual Conference, and has received for his great worth the degree of Doctor of Divinity. While there are a host of others, who have preached the gospel in this city and are deserving a place of remembrance in this history, yet I must pass them by with this remark, that they all have helped to build up a strong church.

The Rev. S. A. Hoblitzell is the present pastor, and he is a good preacher and a faithful worker. He also served

this charge twenty-three years ago with Doctor James K. Nichols.

Rev. Wm. Dale is an unstationed minister belonging to or holding his membership with this church. He was born in St. Martin's district, in Worcester County, Md., on the 1st day of January, 1823. He was educated at Snow Hill Academy and at Windsor Theological Institute, located in Baltimore County, Md., Rev. Francis Waters, D.D., principal. He embraced Christianity when a youth and joined the Methodist Protestant Church. At the age of 20 years, he entered the traveling connection in that church and continued in that relation for fifteen years, when he located and has remained so to the present time. Mr. Dale is a leading man in his church, and in the community at large, he is chairman of the state board of public shools for Worcester County, and one of the wealthiest men of Pocomoke City. In reviewing the history of the Methodist Protestant Church in New Town, the reader will observe, by noticing the date of its organization, that this year, 1882, is the semi-centennial year of its existence, and the statistics show it to be in quite a flourishing condition.

In 1844, the Presbyterian Church, in New Town, was built, and on the 1st day of January, 1845, it was dedicated to the worship of Almighty God. The reader will be informed that the Presbyterian organization in New Town is a branch of the Pitt's Creek Presbyterian Church at Beaver Dams, which was organized by the Rev. Francis

Makemmie as early, probably, as A. D. 1683 or 1684. At this primitive church, the Presbyterians of the surrounding country, worship in the days of yore. When in the course of time the population of New Town increased and the members of the Presbyterian Church became more numerous in the town and in its immediate vicinity, the necessity of the situation demanded a house of worship in New Town, and hence the present establishment in 1845. The Pitt's Creek Presbyterian Church at Beaver Dams and New Town is a unit in name, each having their names upon the same church record. They are a unit in doctrine, in church polity, and in every interest that constitutes one church; the pastor of one is the pastor of the other, and they all, in common, are responsible for his support. The Presbyterian Church in New Town is built of the best material, and in workmanlike manner. It has good proportions and is kept in the neatest style.

It stands on a small elevation on a beautiful lot on Market street, and presents, to the passer by a picturesque appearance. Nearly all of those who aided in its erection have passed away. Chief among contributors were Handy Mills, David Smith, Jacob Boston, Stephen Hargis, John S. Stevenson, James T. Dickinson and Thomas W. Hargis. This church has been endowed with some legacies. The venerable Handy Mills bequeathed to it two farms, worth at that day, probably, seven or eight thousand dollars, and David Smith also bequeathed to it a

valuable farm. The church in New Town and the ground upon which it stands cost four thousand dollars. It has a beautifully located parsonage which cost thirty-two hundred dollars. The church owns a beautiful cemetery on the old Winter Quarter farm. The cemetery cost about eight hundred dollars. The whole property of the Presbyterian Church in Pocomoke City, cost eight thousand dollars. The membership of this church including Pitt's Creek is one hundred and ten. The church in Pocomoke City has a fine Sabbath School with fourteen officers and teachers, and the names of seventy pupils on the school roll, and fifty in average attendance, and three hundred volumes in the library. I will say as a matter of justice to this school, that it lost, by removal, during the year 1880, twenty-six scholars, which has detracted from its average standing in numbers. The running expences of the church and Sabbath School in Pocomoke City annually, including pastors salary, benevolent collections and incidental expenses amounts to 1300 dollars.

There is an item of history connected with Pitts Creek Church that will be interesting to the reader. The facts are these. The original church was built by Francis Makemmie the pioneer of Presbyterianism in this country while it was yet subject to the dominion of Great Britain, consequently it was among the first Presbyterian churches built in this country. Again, Mrs. Holden, of Accomac Co., Va., the daughter of Francis Makemmie, left a legacy



to the church at Pitt's Creek, the interest of which is annually appropriated to the support of the gospel in said church. The pastors who have served this church from its organization so far as I have any means of ascertaining, are as follows: first, Francis Makemmie. How long Mr. Makemmie was pastor of this church, I have no data upon which to fix the term of his pastorate, and indeed, I have no record of any pastor of this church, from the days of Francis Makemmie, until the time when the Rev. Samuel McMaster was its pastor. I can only say that I have had dates of his pastorate from 1795 to 1801, and there the record stops until 1818. It may be of interest to the reader, to be informed that the Rev. Samuel McMaster was the grandfather of Samuel S. and Dr. John T. B. McMaster. In 1818, the Rev. S. Sanders was pastor of Pitt's Creek Church. How long Mr. Sanders was in the pastorate is unknown.

The Rev. Thomas B. Balch D. D. succeeded Mr. Sanders in the pastorate, but dates are wanting to show the time when he entered and retired from it. But this much I can say of him, that the name of Dr. Balch was a household word in the community. In 1831, the Rev. Cornelius Mustard was pastor of the church. After Mr. Mustard retired, then followed in succession, the Rev's. J. J. Graff, James M. Olmstead, B. G. McPhail, Elkanah Mackey, William D. Mackey, Joesph L. Polk, L. P. Bowen and James Conway. Mr. Conway has but recently resigned the pastorate of this church, having had

a call to serve another church in the state of Delaware. Consequently the church is without a pastor for the time being. The above list comprises the names of all the ministers, so far as I have any knowledge or means of ascertaining, who have been pastors of the church from its organization to the present time. The Presbyterian Church in Pocomoke City is quite popular and prosperous.

## CHAPTER XXXV.

## CHURCHES (CONCLUDED.)

In 1845, November, 13th the St. Mary's Protestant Episcopal Church in New Town was consecrated, by Rt. Rev. William Rollinson Whittingham D. D. Bishop of Maryland. This church was built through the indefatigable labors of the Rev. John Crosdale D. D., who from the day of its consecration to the day of his death was its rector. This is a beautiful church, particularly its inside look, and there is connected with it a fine cemetery. The Church also owns a good parsonage with a spacious lot attached. The whole property cost between seven and eight thousand dollars. This church has 85 communicants and a fine Sabbath School of 65 scholars enrolled, with an average attendance of 35. It has ten teachers and 150 volumes in its library. The current expenses of this church, including rector's salary, benevolent contributions, and incidental expenses amount to 815 dollars. This church has a small invested fund, the interest of which is appropriated to the rector's salary. This is a growing, prosperous church with Rev. Francis W. Hilliard, a man of erudition, for its Rector.

As the Rev. John Crosdale, D.D., was the originator of this church, it is but doing justice to his memory that a record of his life, in connection with his church which he served so faithfully, should here be recorded. He was born in the City of Baltimore on the 18th day of July, 1818; died in Pocomoke City March 11th, 1878. Ordained in Rehoboth Church on the 4th Sunday in Advent, 1842, he thenceforth, with occasional intermissions, ministered in Coventry Parish. When Pocomoke Parish was set off therefrom, he became and continued until death its devoted rector. The diocese of Easton, established chiefly by his exertions, preferred him to every post of trust and responsibility. His brethren and children in the faith loved him dearly, while integrity, wisdom and benevolence led all the people to hold him in honor.

“Neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.”

The foregoing account of him I have taken from his monument in the cemetery of St. Mary's Church in Pocomoke City.

In 1874, he received the honorary degree of D.D. from the Washington College, Md. There are but few men who for thirty-five or more years could sustain themselves in ministering to one congregation, with that acceptability which Dr. Crosdale did. He literally devoted his talent of mind, time and means to the interest of his church and

the cause of the poor. His history speaks in tones louder than words, "The zeal of thy house hath eaten me up." Here is a record that is worthy of admiration.

The Baptist Church in New Town, now Pocomoke City, was built in 1853, and was dedicated by the Rev. J. W. M. Williams, D.D., of Baltimore, Md. It is situated at the corner of Market and Fourth Streets in an eligible part of the town. This church is built of good material and by one of the best workmen in the country, Mr. Isaac Marshall, deceased, of Somerset County, Md. It is well proportioned and has the handsomest steeple upon it of any church in the town.

The Baptist Church in Pocomoke City has a membership of 87 on the church roll, and has a fine Sabbath School of 75 pupils enrolled and an average attendance of 50, with 100 volumes in the library. This school has had but two superintendents from the time of its organization to the present time, namely, J. C. Riley and I. H. Merrill, Mr. Merrill being the present one. The church has a good parsonage in the heart of the town and a cemetery but a short distance in the country. The estimated value of the church property including parsonage and cemetery, is 5600 dollars. The running expenses of this church and Sabbath School, annually, including the pastor's salary, benevolent collections incidental expenses, etc., amounts to 610 dollars. The names of the ministers who have served as pastors to this church from its organization to the present time are as follows, Revs. S. C. Boston, A. G.

Harley, O. F. Flippo, James G. Council, E. M. Burns, L. D. Paulling, H. J. Handy and James A. Wolf, Mr. Wolf being the present pastor. These men have served the church with fidelity, and have been the chief instrumentality in building it up and giving it a name, and standing for usefulness among its sister churches that reflect honor upon them.

The colored Methodist Episcopal Church in New Town, now Pocomoke City, was organized in 1864. It has a membership of 186 including probationers. It has a good Sabbath School of 115 pupils and teachers, with an average attendance of 85, and 150 volumes in the library. This church has a missionary chapel in connection with the church, a parsonage and cemetery. The whole property is estimated, in value, to be worth 1,710 dollars. The running annual expenses of the church, including the pastor's salary, benevolent collections, incidental expenses etc., amounts to 355 dollars and 50 cents. The ministers who have occupied the pastorate of this church from its organization to the present time are as follows: Revs. Handy Long, David Eaves, Isaac Broughton, James Webb, Abraham Brown, William Phillips, Charles Wing, G. M. Landon and George H. Washington, Mr. Washington being the present pastor.

The African Methodist Episcopal Church in New Town, now Pocomoke City, was organized in 1872. It has a membership of 79 including probationers, a Sabbath School with 51 pupils enrolled, and 25 in average atten-

dance, with 66 volumes in the library. The church building is a good one, and quite creditable and it, together with the lot of ground on which it stands, and an adjoining house are estimated in value at 1,200 dollars. The pastors who have served this church since its organization are as follows, R'evs. George W. Jones. Charles C. Reeder, John Budd, Charles Young and Thomas M. Cole, Mr. Cole is the present pastor. In reviewing the history of the two Colored Methodist Churches in Pocomoke City, I will say they have made decided advancement over their former condition in ante bellum days. When I think of their intellectual and moral degradation in the days of slavery, when on the large plantations in the South, they would sing, in their religious meetings, their degenerated ditties, such as the following :

“ Oh ! where shall we go when de great day comes,  
En' de blowing o' de trumpets an' de bangin' o' de drums,  
And if a poor sinner is kitched out late,  
Der'll be no latch ter de go'den gate.  
De song o' salvation is a mighty sweet song,  
De Paradise winds dey blow fur and blow long,  
An' Aberham's bosom, it is saft an' its wide,  
An' right dar whar's de sinner aughter hide.  
Ch! don't be stoppin' an' a lookin',  
If you fool wid old Satin you'll get took in ;  
En' you'll stand on de edge an' git shoved in,  
If you don't quit stoppin' an' a lookin'.”

I say, when I think of the degradation of their intellectual and moral powers in their former condition and draw

the comparison between that and the present, they have made decided advancement intellectually, morally and religiously. They have their regular pastors, their regular appointments, and they worship in their public congregations like the white people, and they sing the standard hymns of the Methodist Church.

In summing up the religious outlook of Pocomoke City, I will say there are seven churches in the town; the total number of members and probationers is 705. There are seven Sabbath Schools, and the number of scholars and teachers aggregating 638 names on the school rolls, with 1,171 volumes in the libraries, and a good supply of Sabbath School papers. The total amount of church property in Pocomoke City is \$37,610. The running annual expenses of all the churches and Sabbath Schools is something over \$4,300.

We have also four orders of secret societies in Pocomoke City, namely, Ancient and Accepted Order of Free Masons, Knights of Pythias, Independent Order of Hephtasophs and Ancient Order of United Workmen. Some of these societies are benevolent while others are both benevolent and insurance. They are composed of many of the chief citizens of the town.

It is but simple justice to say that there are gentlemen living in the neighborhood of Pocomoke City, who have given material aid to its business life, and whose interest in it has been so great that they have helped on its successful course by their influence and the use of their names,



and chief among these are Thomas W. Hargis, Samuel S. McMaster and Samuel K. Dennis.

THE END.













